Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of the Legislature repealing the Derivative Beneficiaries Act?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

US Moves On

Determined never to forget but perhaps ready to move on, the nation gently handed Sept. 11 over to history Sunday.

Focus...Page 17

Andy Whitfield, 39

Andy Whitfield, who played the title role in the hit cable series "Spartacus: Blood and Sand," has died.

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'Cut rebate tax, use federalization law money for training programs.' PAGE 3

Tycoon allegedly owes $118M

Millard

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Admin tracks down alleged tax evader in Cayman Islands

A man once listed as among the richest people in America and who owes the CNMI government over $118 million in unpaid income tax plus interest on judgments has been tracked down with the help of a New York-based law firm that the Fitial administration tapped in 2010 in hopes of collecting what's owed to this U.S. territorial government.

See TYCOON on Page 4

Wilshire terminates contract with Fund

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After sending feelers about its plan to severe its relationship with the NMI Retirement Fund last week, Wilshire Associates finally followed through on the threat yesterday when the investment consultant terminated its contract with the pension program.

The company said it decided to terminate its

See WILSHIRE on Page 4

Tornado-like formation seen north of Garapan

» EMO, however, could not verify sighting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A tornado-like formation was seen by many people, including motorists, yesterday afternoon north of Garapan, but the Emergency Management Office said they could not verify the report.

Some employees at the U.S. District Court for the NMI took photos of the tornado or twister-like formation from their office on the second floor of the Horiguchi Building. Some motorists also grabbed their cellphones and cameras to take photos.

A court staff said after seeing the formation she immediately called her mother from her home so she could watch it.

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DAN KIMBALL/TIM WESLEY

A spectacular photo of what appears to be a waterspout that formed in the Saipan Lagoon is seen here from a vantage point in Marpi. The Emergency Management Office received a lot of calls about the funnel formation yesterday, but it could not verify whether it was a tornado or a waterspout. Inset, the photo of the tornado-like formation shot on the second floor of the Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

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Local

Rota Hotel workers say they're owed $57K in back wages

» Staff also claim they didn't resign

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rota Hotel workers said yesterday their employer owes them a total of $57,000 in back wages, and belied claims by the hotel management that 10 of 13 employees resigned.

The workers are now also worried that if Rota Hotel does not reopen, they will be left without an employer at a time when a final rule on foreign workers requires employment by Nov. 27, 2011 or they could face deportation.

"We did not resign from the company. We are still employees and we are still owed over $57,000 by Rota Hotel. We want to be paid and we want to continue working with the company once they reopen. We have been patient about this, but we also have families to feed," said Arthur Alpino, who has been an accountant for Rota Hotel for 12 years.

Alpino, in a phone interview yesterday, said the workers' meeting with Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola in August did not have any mention about workers resigning but was only about the workers' request to be paid their salaries.

Rota Hotel, which also owns and operates Rota Treasure Island Corp., temporarily closed in April after expected casino players and tourists cancelled their flights in the wake of the March 11 Japan quake and tsunami. The casino has not reopened since.

The hotel, however, reopened for some 10 days in August because of a charter flight that came in. But Alpino said only three of the 13 employees were secretly called in to work during those days.

Isagani Camacho, 62, who has been with Rota Hotel for nine years as a maintenance worker for electrical, refrigeration, air-conditioning, and other areas of operation, said he is owed some $5,000 in back wages.

He said when Rota Hotel temporarily closed, he tried to look for other jobs but hasn't had any luck.

Camacho said if he couldn't find a new employer to petition a CW status for him, he's prepared to go home—but only if he's paid the $5,000 he worked for.

He said it would be unfair if Rota Hotel hires new employees when it reopens, without first paying its debt to its employees who served the hotel for years.

"They promised us that even when we're back in the Philippines, we will be paid. Now that we're still here, they couldn't pay us. How much more when we're no longer here?" Camacho said.

Alpino believes that Rota Hotel may be washing its hands of responsibilities over its own employees, now that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under the Department of Homeland Security released the final rule on foreign workers.

He said the original amount owed to 13 workers was $62,000 but the hotel owner paid them $5,000 last month.

Alpino said if Rota Hotel plans to reopen and hire workers, the management should pay the back wages of its current employees first.

In August, the workers staged a silent protest with placards demanding payment of back wages. They said the mayor learned about their plight.

Saipan Tribune attempted several times to contact the management of Rota Hotel to ask for comment on Alpino and company's allegations, with no success.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, said yesterday that the delegation sympathizes with the unpaid workers.

"We hope that the company also thinks about the welfare of the employees who need their salaries to feed their families," he said.

Ayuyu said this will be discussed again during an economic meeting on Rota on Saturday at 9am.

He said the economic meeting will be held at the Rota mayor's office, and every stakeholder is invited, including the owners and operators of hotels on Rota, the airline firms serving Rota, tourism partners, and other interested entities.

"We hope everyone with a stake in Rota's tourism industry will be there," Ayuyu said.

WE NEED MONEY NOT PROMISE
STOP PROMISE
We need our MONEY!
MR. WATANABE
TREAT US FAIRLY
BEFORE OPENING THE HOTEL PAY THE EMPLOYEES FIRST

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Hotel workers and their families hold placards during a silent protest in August to demand payment of their back wages now totaling $57,000. The workers also said yesterday that they have not resigned from Rota Hotel, contrary to the management's claim.

PSS hires 43 new classroom teachers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has hired 43 classroom teachers this new school year and is in the process of employing more to fill vacant positions throughout the PSS.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan said of the 43 classroom teachers, 33 are teachers hired from off-island, while 18 teachers were recruited from on-island.

All of them are classified as highly qualified teachers pursuant to the Board of Education policy that requires three requirements: degree, Praxis, and valid certification.

They are provided higher compensation based on the board's policy. Their salaries range from $28,000 annually to up to $47,000 per year, depending on their credentials and qualifications.

According to PSS' human resource office yesterday, PSS currently has more or less 575 classroom teachers

Sablan said from 20 positions that needed to be filled before the opening of public schools, HR said the number of vacant posts for teachers is now down to 15 positions, majority of which are educators needed for content areas.

Starting July 31, the U.S. Department of Education has barred the hiring of non-highly qualified personnel for all the school districts.

As a result, PSS terminated the services of teachers who were found not in noncompliance with this requirement.

Sablan proudly announced yesterday that CNMI-PSS was among the few districts that have met the requirements for school year 2011.

The commissioner said yesterday that besides the highly qualified teachers, PSS has also recorded a success in the highly qualified administrators and counselors mandates.

She also hailed the success rates achieved by individual schools in their accreditation status with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the remarkable changes in the campus environment as a result of the funding received for school renovation and modernization. All major repairs and renovations of schools were funded by the $32.4 million state fiscal stabilization fund awarded to PSS in fiscal year 2010.

Chacha Oceanview Junior High School principal Vince Dela Cruz yesterday said the system "has come a long way" in achieving the HQT goal. Chacha has 381 students when it opened classes last week and has 13 classroom teachers.

Other schools have the following teacher count: Marianas High School, 47 teachers; Garapan Elementary, 35 teachers; Saipan Southern High, 31 teachers; and Hopwood Junior High School, 44 classroom teachers.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Marianas Road Show in Busan & Gwanju

The 2011 Marianas Road Show was held on August 24 and 25, 2011, in Busan and Gwanju, Korea, attracting nearly 300 travel agents and cooperative partners of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The road show aimed to strengthen the MVA's partnership with partners and major travel agents in the two cities and to educate the agents on the Northern Marianas destination.

The MVA promoted the Marianas with strong emphasis on the three destinations of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The major attractions and activities of each island were also highlighted and the new promotion "Honeymoon Event" was introduced to agents.

The workshop was supported by Asiana Airlines, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Mariana Resort & Spa, and Aqua Resort Club, who all donated prizes for the participants.

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

‘Cut rebate tax, use federalization law money for training programs’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) separately seek to cut rebate tax to help save the NMI Retirement Fund and allocate some $3.3 million that could be collected from employers paying the $150 “CNMI education fee” for each employee they want to hire, respectively.

Deleon Guerrero’s House Bill 17-217 seeks to reduce the rebate tax effective Jan. 1, 2012 and be in effect for two years, and deposit the difference into a separate account to help the NMI Retirement Fund.

The bill, co-sponsored by five other House members, seeks to reduce the rebate offset amount from 90 percent to 70 percent if the rebate base is not over $20,000.

The bill proposes to cut the rebate amount from $18,000 to $14,000, plus 50 percent instead of 70 percent of the rebate base over $20,000 but not more than $100,000.

For a rebate base of over $100,000, the rebate offset amount will be reduced from $74,000 to $54,000, plus 30 percent—instead of 50 percent—of the rebate base.

HB 17-217 says at least 12.5 percent of all amounts paid to thegovernment with respect to taxes imposed under this chapter shall not be placed into the general fund or commingled with other funds.

Deleon Guerrero

Yumul

The funds should be deposited by the Finance secretary into one or more FDIC or FSLIC insured special purpose trust accounts in banks within the CNMI.

Yumul’s HB 17-218, meanwhile, seeks to allocate funds received pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

PL 110-229 mandates employers to pay a “CNMI education funding fee” of $150 per foreign worker they petition for a Commonwealth-only worker status per year. This fee cannot be waived.

Yumul said with a numerical cap of 22,416 CW visas for fiscal year 2012 alone, the CNMI could collect a total of $3,362,400 that should only be used to fund educational training and help eligible persons in the CNMI seek jobs.

Under Yumul’s bill, 30 percent of the funds collected will go to the Public School System’s Technical Education Program Fund; 50 percent for the Northern Marianas College’s vocational education programs; and 20 percent for the Office of the Governor’s distribution to other government and private sector vocational education and job training programs.

In an interview, Yumul said allocating these money to educational programs will help the CNMI Legislature in passing a budget for FY 2012.

He said instead of zeroing out the leadership allocation and lawmakers’ individual allocation to give the difference to NMC and PSS, the Legislature can instead appropriate money from the CNMI education funding fee.

The Senate is expected to pass today an amended version of the House-passed budget bill for FY 2012.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the budget bill will still reflect a zero account for both the leadership and individual members’ allocations, and may use the CNMI education funding fee as “other sources” of funding just like Compact-Impact.

Businessman’s federal tax refund lawsuit may result in $2M settlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A businessman’s $5.6-million federal tax refund lawsuit against the United States of America may possibly end with a settlement of more than $2 million.

U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division’s trial attorney Lauren M. Castaldi stated that due to the amount at issue in John K. Baldwin’s suit, “settlement proposals may involve a concession of more than $2 million.”

Castaldi asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to excuse the U.S. government from the requirement that a person with full settlement authority attend the settlement conference in this case.

Castaldi said instead he and trial counsel for the U.S. Jeremy Hendon will personally appear at the settlement conference and Deborah Meland, the chief of the Tax Division’s Office of Review, will be available by phone.

Castaldi said only by centralizing decision-making in these cases, can the Internal Revenue Service and the DOJ hope to be able to treat all taxpayers similarly, so that the burdens of government are fairly shared by all.

He said the DOJ’s settlement authority regulations serve the goal of placing the power to decide cases involving significant amounts of money or implications for broad classes of cases in the hand of officials with policy-making authority.

Castaldi said the settlement regulations applicable here assure that settlements made in cases involving payment of substantial sums from the public treasury or cases in which the agency involved in the litigation opposes the proposed settlement should be made by officials with political accountability.

U.S. District Court Senior Judge Alex R. Munson last Sept. 9 denied the U.S. government’s request to be excused from a requirement that an individual with full settlement authority personally attend the settlement conference.

The settlement conference in Baldwin’s suit is currently scheduled for Oct. 17, 2011 in Idaho before Munson.

In his order, Munson said in 29 years of facilitating settlement negotiations, he has never brought about a settlement agreement without having present on each side a person with full authority to reflect such an agreement.

Under the requirement, the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division in consultation with the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation has final settlement authority for a refund of this amount.

Munson’s ruling prompted the U.S. government to file on Saturday an emergency motion citing that if the court denies the relief that they requested, DOJ needs an opportunity to consider whether to bring the issue to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit prior to the settlement conference date.

Castaldi argued that to have the person(s) with full settlement authority present at the conference would be inappropriate as it is impracticable for the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General to personally attend all settlement conferences that may be within his authority.

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Tropical depression formed, but far from Commonwealth

A tropical depression was slowly intensifying yesterday into a tropical storm, but it's located northwest and far from the CNMI.

As of 1pm, no watches or warnings were in effect as the center of Tropical Depression 18W was 805 miles northwest of Saipan, 825 miles northwest of Guam, and 590 miles southeast of Okinawa.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, Tropical Depression 18W is moving west at 3 miles per hour and packing maximum sustained winds at 35 mph.

The tropical depression is expected to make a slight turn to the west-northwest with an increase in forward speed over the next 24 hours.

NWS said the tropical depression is expected to continue slowly intensifying and possibly become a tropical storm last night (Monday).

Saipan experienced rains mostly yesterday afternoon. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TORNADO-LIKE

From Page 1

The staff said after a minute the funnel went up to the clouds, disappeared, then two to three small funnels were briefly seen.

The court employee said when she saw the twister-like formation she was stunned because three weeks ago she had a dream that a tornado hit Saipan.

EMO's geophysical seismic technician/supervisor John Takai Camacho said they received calls from the public about a tornado-like formation north of Garapan, but they cannot verify the reports because they didn't see the phenomenon.

"We checked with the U.S. National Weather Service and even them they don't have any information on that," Camacho said.

Unless they could see the photos and verify their authenticity, they cannot tell if it's a tornado or a waterspout.

Camacho said it is called a tornado when it touches land, but when it hits water it is a waterspout.

A tornado or waterspout reportedly began with the formation of clouds called a funnel cloud.

A funnel cloud, according to Wikipedia, is a funnel-shaped cloud of condensed water droplets, associated with a rotating column of air and extending from the base of a cloud but not reaching the ground or a water surface.

All tornadoes begin as funnel clouds, but many funnel clouds do not reach ground contact and so don't become tornadoes.

WILSHIRE

From Page 1

contact with the Fund because of the grave impact the newly signed Beneficiaries Derivative Act would have on its operations.

Wilshire was hired by the Fund to replace for Merrill Lynch last October and is being paid $195,000 a year.

"The newly enacted Public Law 17-51 potentially allows our existing contract terms to be voided or altered by the Fund's beneficiaries at any time in the future and can be retroactively applied up to 12 years in the past. This has created significant uncertainties in the business contracting environment and put into question the board's authority in contracting with outside parties," said Wilshire in a statement.

The company adding that it finds it impossible to continue performing its duties under the current contract due to these circumstances. Wilshire has tendered its resignation effective Sept. 11. Unlike money managers who have a 30-day provision to terminate contracts, the investment consultant can terminate its service whenever it wishes to and vice versa.

The company, however, assured the Fund that it will continue to serve the agency for up to 30 days to assist in the transition.

"We sincerely appreciated the opportunity to work with the board and staff of the Fund in the past year. The Fund has been facing enormous challenges from aggressive drawdown caused by years of delinquent employer contributions and unchecked benefits granting," said the company, adding that the board and the management have been working tirelessly trying to save the Fund.

As of Aug. 16, the fund portfolio was valued at only $271.2 million, which according to Wilshire could only last up to three years if no new money will be pumped into the pension plan.

Wilshire reiterated that in order for the Fund to be saved, a focused effort from the entire community is essential. During her recent visit to Saipan, Wilshire principal Maggie Ralbovsky communicated this view to both the Fund and the Legislature.

However, despite numerous presentations and her consistent communication on the negative effects of the then-bill, the measure was passed and enacted into law.

"While we hoped our efforts would create some positive actions, we were disappointed with the enactment of P.L. 17-51, which further endangers the fund and diverts precious resources from tasks of saving it. We were left with no other choice but to tender our resignation," it said in the statement.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, when asked to comment on the formal termination of Wilshire's contract, pointed out that this has been presented and clearly communicated with lawmakers and elected officials but to no avail.

"The negative effects of P.L. 17-51 are now obvious. Unfortunately, the bill still became law even though the effects were foreseeable," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the perception of outsiders wanting to do business in the CNMI—not just with the Fund—may have been severely damaged because of the said public law. Villagomez said retirees and members of the Fund need a champion in the Legislature to lead and stand strong in addressing retirement issues.

"Lawmakers should repeal this law in its entirety right away," he added.

Villagomez earlier disclosed that the Fund may not get a replacement for Wilshire from on-island because the law that created the Fund specifically outlines the requirements and criteria of an investment consultant which must have handled at least assets totaling $200 million.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial last Friday expressed his dismay on Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' signing of the law. He said it was not what they agreed upon before he left off-island.

Some lawmakers who opposed the measure when it was a bill, however, expressed their desire to offer amendments to the law in their next meeting. Their colleagues, meantime, were vocal in saying these amendments may not pass due to lack of votes from members.

Since the signing of the Beneficiaries Derivative Act last Monday, two money managers have already terminated its contracts with the Fund and it is expected that the remaining managers will follow suit. The Fund also expressed worry that this may also result in the termination of service of its custodian, Bank of Hawaii.

TYCOON

From Page 1

If the CNMI government succeeds in collecting the over $118 million in unpaid taxes from ComputerLand Corp. retail chain founder William H. Millard, then this money will help the Commonwealth's shrinking economy.

The over $118 million reportedly owed by Millard and his wife Patricia in unpaid taxes is even higher than the CNMI government's budget of $102 million in fiscal year 2012 starting on Oct. 1.

The Millards lived on Saipan for years during which time they sold their interests in ComputerLand for over 200 million.

They left in August 1990 and their whereabouts have been unknown, until recently when the CNMI government's lawyers and investigators tracked Millard and his wife on Grand Cayman Island in the western Caribbean.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos announced yesterday that the government initiated proceedings in the U.S. District Court of the NMI against Willard and his wife Patricia Millard in relation to a $118,043,5353 CNMI income tax claim.

The Fitial administration tapped New York-based Kobre & Kim in 2010, to lead the case in going after the Millards to collect the unpaid taxes.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said "due to the complexity of this case, the administration sought to acquire the services of a law firm with a distinct background in tax debts and international affairs."

"Hence, the administration acquired the services of Kobre & Kim by way of retainer that will be based on the outcome of this case," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Millard has also been tagged as one of the world's most elusive tax exiles.

In a statement yesterday, the Fitial administration said court documents filed by the CNMI indicate that the Millards were the founders and majority shareholders of ComputerLand Corp., a company owning and operating a chain of retail computer stores.

The Millards briefly resided in the Commonwealth during which time they sold their interests in ComputerLand for over $200 million.

On subsequent tax returns filed by the Millards, they claimed use of the reduced income tax rate available to residents in order to lower the tax on gains from the sale of ComputerLand stock.

However, the Fitial administration said Commonwealth law specifically precludes use of this reduced income tax rate on assets acquired prior to establishing residency.

In July 1994, the Commonwealth obtained judgments against Millard in the amount of $18,317,980.80 and against his wife in the amount of $18,318,113.41 for a grand total of $36,636,094.21.

With the accumulation of statutory interest the total value of these two judgments has increased to the current value of $118,043,535.

Fitial said the "reduced tax rate available in the Commonwealth is designed to facilitate investment; not avoidance of liability that occurs prior to establishing residency."

"The Millards should have paid the initial $36 million in income tax liability when they realized the gain on their stock sale; instead they chose to ignore the tax authority of the Commonwealth," the governor said.

Fitial said his administration has been trying to enforce this liability, "but until recently, we were unable to identify the location of the Millards."

"The Commonwealth intends to enforce the tax delinquency assessment that was established in 1991 against all of the property of any nature belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Millard. Information has been obtained that the Millards are currently residing in the Cayman Islands and we have requested the assistance of the Cayman Island government in enforcement of our tax claim," he said.

'When Millard was here'

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that when he ran for governor the first time in 1989, he was meeting with Millard's lawyer he remembers as Terry Giles, to try to settle Millard's tax problems with the CNMI government at the time.

"The first time I ran for governor, I was working to settle the tax problems. I was meeting with his legal counsel, Mr. Giles. But I lost that election to Larry Guerrero. When I ran again for governor and won, he (Millad) was gone," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio was CNMI governor from Jan. 10, 1994 to Jan. 12, 1998. He also served as CNMI House speaker but stepped down early this year to become just a member of the House.

He said had he won the gubernatorial election the first time, he would like to think that the government would have gotten something from Millard in unpaid taxes.

Tenorio said he never personally met Millard when he was living on Saipan.

Manny Borja, a consultant for Tenorio, separately said yesterday that he's the one who has been taking care of Millard's "castle" on the eastern side of Saipan.

That structure is built on a property owned by a Tudela family, said Borja.

"I believe there's still 28 years left on the lease. It's been paid a long time ago," Borja told *Saipan Tribune*.

When that lease expires, the property and the structure would go back to the land owner, he added.

Borja said since the Millards left Saipan, the castle had been vacant. He said a Filipino man used to take care of the Millards' house but when that man died, Borja said he sent the man's remains to the Philippines.

He said he was asked to oversee the Millards' place, and was told he'd be paid $10,000 a month although that monetary promise never materialized. Borja said the last time he talked to Millard was sometime in 1993.

"I was not even sure if it was him because a caller would use a wine's name, 'Paul Masson'," he said.

The Millards' castle is now being used by the Marianas Christian Church, said Borja, rather than remain vacant and deteriorate.

"They are using the place for free," he added.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said while he didn't personally meet Millard when he was living here, he heard some things about him.

He said Millard attended or testified at a CNMI House of Representatives' hearing on corruption in government, and that hearing could have been caught on video.

Millard also reportedly made a speech before business leaders and complained that certain officials were always asking him for bribes, a piece of information that's also mentioned in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article.

The *Wall Street Journal*, in a Sept. 10, 2011 article, traced how Millard's whereabouts were tracked by Kobre & Kim and a small army of private investigators that the CNMI government hired.

That article quoted Michael Kim, a partner of Kobre & Kim, as saying that Millard's establishment of a network of over 50 shell companies, trusts, and bank accounts "is one of the most sophisticated and complicated cases of offshore asset restructuring that we have ever seen."

A copy of that article is available at http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904900904576554832511658872.html?KEYWORDS=Northern+Marianas.

$50M in pursued tax claims

Fitial said the tax collection effort against the Millards represents another step that his administration has been taking "to increase revenues through enforcement of long-standing tax claims."

He said in the past 24 months, the administration has been able to bring in an additional $50 million by pursuing tax claims that had been dormant for many years.

From having an annual government budget of $200 million, the CNMI now has an annual budget that's almost cut to half.

Fitial's FY 2012 proposed budget to the Legislature is only $102 million, further down from the revised $122 million budget for FY 2011.

Because of limited cash collection, the government has to resort to 16-hour pay cuts biweekly for so-called non-critical government employees and unpaid holidays. Most of the affected employees also have to deal with delayed payrolls since June 2010.

The administration and the House of Representatives have been looking at developing a casino industry on Saipan to revitalize the economy especially after the demise of the garment industry. But legalizing casino gambling is something that Saipan's voters twice rejected, the latest one in 2007. Its proponents, however, said the dismal economic conditions, unemployment, and rising living costs should give the casino industry a chance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, prepares for a meeting of the governor's Strategic Economic Development Council along with lawmakers, Cabinet members and private sector representatives on Capital Hill Thursday morning. Alaska-based investor Bernie Karl, who earned national recognition for his geothermal energy projects, also made a presentation before the SEDC members and guests. Fitial again met with some lawmakers on Saturday to expound on his administration's plan to apply for a federal loan that will fund a geothermal energy project on Saipan.

Reksid wants evidence of ethics violations excluded from trial

Department of Public Lands special assistant to the secretary Franz B. Reksid has asked the federal court to stop the U.S. government from submitting evidence of the CNMI's Government Ethics Code against him during jury trial.

Attorney Mark B. Hanson, counsel for Reksid, asserted that the U.S. government's planned introduction of ethics law and Reksid's alleged violation of the same would be unfairly prejudicial and confusing to the jury.

"The evidence, in any case, should only come in through and expert and notice an expert witness at the eve of trial would also be highly prejudicial to Mr. Reksid," said Hanson in Reksid's motion to exclude evidence.

The indictment charged the 70-year-old Reksid with seven counts of wire fraud and one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The indictment alleged that from January 2009 to August 2009, Reksid borrowed over $300,000 from friends, associates, and relatives and wired part of the money to Ivory Coast and Nigeria. He also allegedly solicited $3,000 from the owner of a business that was seeking to obtain a contract with DPL.

In Reksid's motion, Hanson said at 4pm on Friday, the U.S. government filed an amended witness list, listing as one of the exhibits the CNMI Procurement Regulations, citing to various sections of the Government Ethics Code (not the CNMI Procurement Regulations).

Hanson said the alleged ethics violations are irrelevant and should be disallowed.

Hanson said the alleged conduct is not charged in the superseding indictment.

If allowed, the lawyer noted, the introduction of such evidence would require the testimony of an expert on the CNMI Government Ethics Code and the prosecution has consistently stated that it does not intend to call any experts in the trial in this case.

Reksid's motion was set for a hearing yesterday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Dog control program treating dogs with mange, skin diseases

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mange and other skin diseases pose concern for the dog control program of the Saipan Mayor's Office, according to Mayor Donald G. Flores.

Flores said in an interview that his dog control program staff are focused in addressing the problem on stray dogs infected with skin diseases that are placed in their transfer station in Chalan Kanoa.

"Right now we're concentrating on dogs that have mange so it doesn't spread to other dogs," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Flores, stray dogs that are infected with mange are "eyesores" for both residents and tourists because they roam around the streets displaying unpleasant symptoms of the disease—hair loss and skin crusting.

"These dogs are not nice to be seen by locals and tourists," said the mayor.

Flores said apprehended stray dogs that have mange are brought to Dr. Ed Tudor, a private veterinarian who volunteers his services for the dog control program.

"If the dog can still be treated, then Dr. Tudor treats it," he said.

Flores thanked Tudor and the PAWS for coordinating with the Mayor's Office and their assistance in the program.

"Hopefully, we'll have our dog kennel up and running soon once we finalize our agreement with NMTI for the construction of the facility," added Flores.

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DUE TO LACK OF TEACHERS, INFLUX OF MORE ENROLLEES

Sablan: Teacher-to-student ratio up this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed yesterday that teacher-to-student ratio in public schools is up this school year due to an increase in enrollees and the lack of funds to hire more teachers.

She revealed that currently up to 28 students occupy classrooms at the elementary school level—a figure Sablan admitted as "pretty high" and poses a challenge for teachers.

She specifically cited the significant increase in the teacher-to-student ratio for 4th grade to 12th grade as to up 30 students per classroom have been recorded in these levels. She said this number of students is difficult to handle if teachers are not extended additional support.

The class-size increase, she said, was the prime result of PSS not having enough money to hire more teachers so student population can be split, minimizing the number of students per classroom.

Compared to a classroom filled with only 20 students, Sablan believes that the high teacher-to-student ratio may bear some effects on student learning.

She said a large class size is manageable provided the teacher is efficient, effective, and creative.

"I do believe we have teachers that are effective, efficient, and equipped because they are all HQT [highly qualified teachers]. To have 28 or 30 students in the classroom can be very difficult because you do have diverse student population and certainly you have to meet the needs of individual students. I know it will be very difficult and I am sure they will need a lot of support to manage them all," the commissioner told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

As of Sept. 6, Sablan said enrollment marked a 4-percent increase with over 11,000 students. Since enrollment and registration are still ongoing in many schools, the commissioner is projecting that PSS may realize an enrollment hike of about 5 percent.

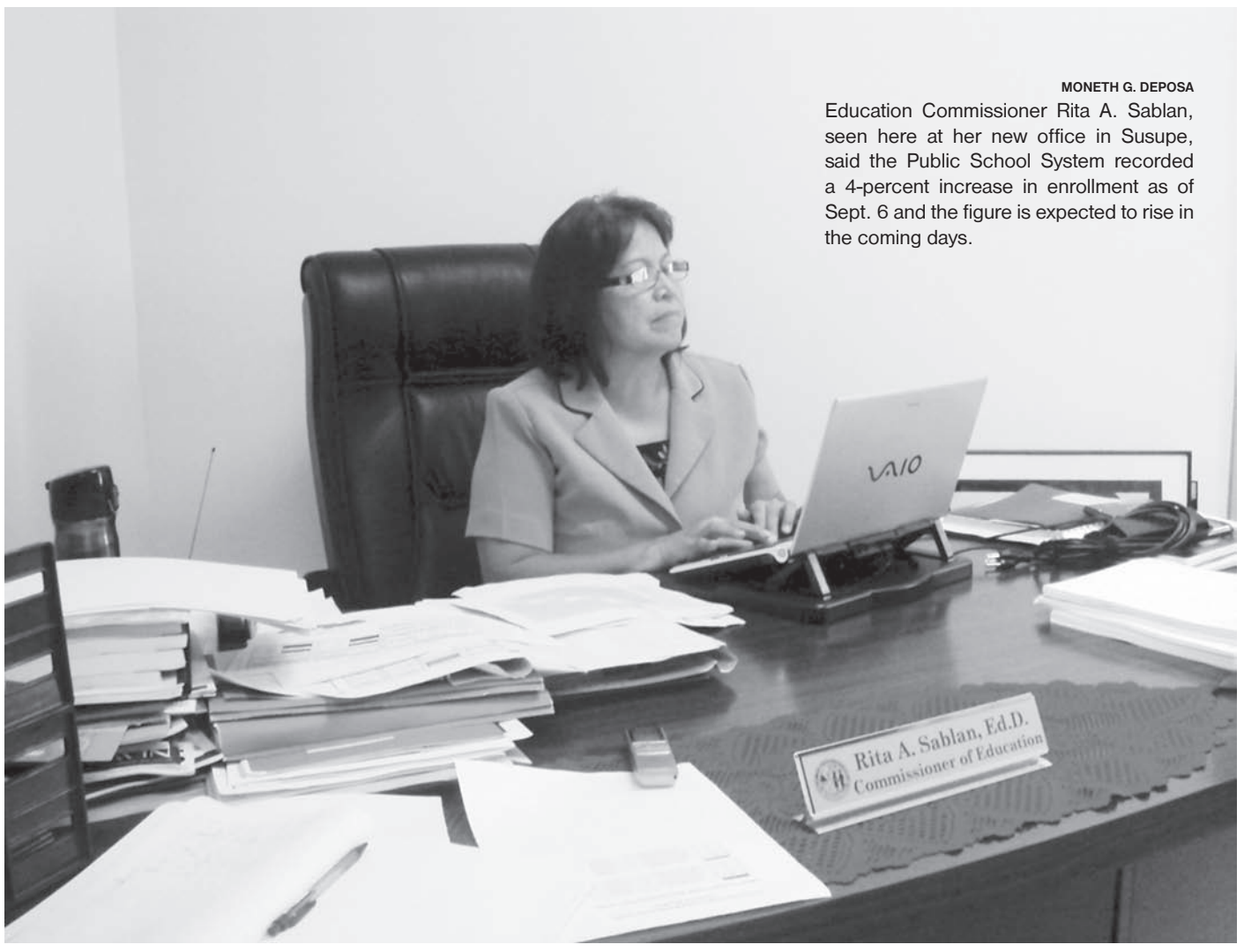
Yesterday, the commissioner visited some schools on Saipan where she saw many parents still enrolling their children in elementary schools. In two weeks' time, she said, a final enrollment figure is expected from individual schools.

At Marianas High School, acting principal Cherlyn Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* that 1,523 enrollees were recorded in the opening of classes which is a 17-percent increase from the 1,295 students recorded in the end of the last school year.

MHS has 47 classroom teachers and still needs about three more to accommodate all enrollees. On opening day, teacher-to-student ratio was at 1:33—a figure way higher than the 28 students allowed for secondary school, pursuant to board policy.

At Saipan Southern High School, principal Jesse Tudela during opening day disclosed having 909 enrollees, which reflects a 7-percent increase from last year's 851 students while recorded ratio of 1:29.

The Hopwood Junior High School also recorded a 20-percent hike in enrollment from 1,046 last year to 1,250 as Sept. 6, which represents a 1:32 teacher-to-student ratio for 7th graders and 1:26 for 8th graders.



MONETH G. DEPOSA
Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, seen here at her new office in Susupe, said the Public School System recorded a 4-percent increase in enrollment as of Sept. 6 and the figure is expected to rise in the coming days.

Fitial holds off signing local casino bill, mulls geothermal project loan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is holding off signing the local bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan at least until the passage of a new House casino bill, said lawmakers who met with the governor on Saturday wherein the latter also mulled applying for a federal loan to fund a geothermal power plant project.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday the governor still has 40 days or until early October to act on Torres' local casino bill.

Palacios said the new House casino bill that is being drafted is similar to Torres' local bill except for the distribution of revenue, and is expected to be introduced and passed in the House soon.

"If the Senate passes it, then the governor, I think, will sign it. If not, then he will sign the local bill. I think the governor thinks it's better if the bill is something that the Senate also agrees on," said Palacios.

Torres echoed this, saying the governor has some reluctance signing the local bill right away "without waiting for a bicameral casino bill."

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and other members of the House leadership met with Fitial on Saturday noon.

Torres and Palacios said the governor also talked about the administration's plan to apply for a federal loan to fund a geothermal power plant project.

Both support the project, saying it will be able to lower the rate of power in the CNMI.

At Fitial's invitation, Alaska-based investor Bernie Karl visited Saipan last week. Karl has earned national recognition for his pioneering work on geothermal energy and the Fitial administration would like to duplicate such success in the CNMI.

Chinese Culture Night this Thursday

The Chinese Association of Saipan would like to welcome the community to the first ever "Chinese Culture Night" this Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011 at the Paseo De Marianas from 6pm to 9pm.

There will be special performances from Beijing artists who will exhibit the exciting Chinese "Bi.n Liăn", literally "Face-Changing," which is an ancient Chinese dramatic art that is part of the more general Sichuan opera. Performers wear brightly colored costumes and move to quick, dramatic music. They also wear vividly colored masks, which they change within a fraction of a second.

Also performing from Beijing will be the "Gōng Fu Ch.," a thrilling show based on the tea preparation approach. The ceremony was originally popularized by teashops carrying tea of Chinese or Taiwan origins and by tea connoisseurs as a way to maximize the taste of a tea selection. Today, the "ceremony" has become a form of entertainment in various fairs, ceremonies, and tourist programs.

Showtime for the Beijing performers will be 7pm and 8pm. There will also be unique cultural performances and exhibitions by the local members of the Chinese community on Saipan as well as special booths which feature artwork, Chinese calligraphy, photo booths, cultural items, and games for the children. Booths open at 6pm, and entertainment kicks off with the traditional Lion Dance at 7pm.

Come and step into China for once night and experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of a culturally vibrant country!

The Chinese Association of Saipan would like to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Division of Parks and Recreation, and the PDM Promoters for their assistance. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday September 16, 2011 beginning at 9:30am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
1. Investment Consultant Report
2. Legal Counsel Report
3. Board Consultant Report
IV OLD BUSINESS
1. Alternative Investment
2. ITB 11-1 Fiduciary Liability Insurance
3. Personnel Matter
V COMMUNICATIONS
VI NEW BUSINESS
• CDA – SSBCI
VII MISCELLANEOUS
VIII ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB11-CHC-135
Submission Date: October 12, 2011 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

Copies of the scope of work may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this IFB should be directed to Thomas Palacios, Chief of General Support Services by Fax to (670) 234-8930 or e-mail to **tspalacios@gmail.com** no later than the close of business, **September 29, 2011**.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB11-CHC-136
Submission Date: October 12, 2011 • Time: 1:00 p.m.

"OUTSIDE GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

Copies of the scope of work may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this IFB should be directed to Thomas Palacios, Chief of General Support Services by Fax to (670) 234-8930 or e-mail to **tspalacios@gmail.com** no later than the close of business, **September 29, 2011**.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 025 E 01, containing an area of approximately 12,225 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is L&T Group of Companies, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, and Glicerio Arago.

The President of the Corporation is Willie Tan. The Vice President is Jerry Tan. The Treasurer/Secretary is Glicerio Arago.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Glicerio Arago.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of warehousing, moving, loading and unloading and storage of property , and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENSION ATKILON TÅNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi nutisia Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku Siha guini ha nutisia na i intension-ña na para u rekumenda i inekstendin atkilon gi sigienti na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha.

Esti i inekstendin atkilon masuhetu para i inaprueban i Leyislatura gi Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum imfetmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra gi tinahgui na propositu siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Komu sigi mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, gi sigienti pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda para u mapupblika.

i. I atkilon i lugåt madiskribi komu tanu' pupbliku Lot No. 025 E 01, kinonsisti kåsi guaha 12,225 na åria (square meters), putlumenus pat mås, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian esti na lugåt yan i pumalu nai guaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku ni para u marikunosi.

ii. I manatkikila i L & T Group of Companies, Ltd., i CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Kuetpu siha gi Corporation si Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, yan si Glicerio Arago.

I Presidentin i Corporation si Willie Tan. I Sigundu Presidenti si Jerry Tan. I Tresureru/Sikritåriu si Glicerio Arago.

iii. I maproponin inekstendin atkilon manigosiu as Siñot Glicerio Arago.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kuntinuha umusa i lugåt solamienti para i maneran operasion bisnis i warehousing, moving, loading yan unloading yan storage i property, yan aktibidåt siha ni uma'achuli' guihi siha.

I teman esti na kuntråta inekstendin atkilon sa' kinsi (15) åñus.

v. I kopian i kuntråtan i manmaproponi na inekstendin atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, gaigi gi mina'sigundu(2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat gi Primet(1st) bibienda giya Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu tanu' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sikritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta i tinigi' imfotmasion, opiñon, testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i gai intires na petsona siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sów Ffëérúl Allégh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe ischilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.025 E 01, ebwe yoor seigh me eew sangaras ruwabwughúw reweigh me limoow llapal (12, 225 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge L&T Group of Company, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil asamwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, me Glicerio Arago.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Willie Tan. Arúscheyil Samwool nge Jerry Tan.
Treasurer/Secretary nge Glicerio Arago.

iii. School aweweel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Glicerio Arago..

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe sobwey yaal mwóghut ágheli bisinisil sokko, amwatal me atotootiw me sokkol peiragh me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

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i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 010 B 96, containing an area of approximately 909 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 010 B 97, containing an area of approximately 1,072 square meters, more or less, situated in San Roque, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is V & C Enterprises, Inc., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, and Neda B. Camacho.

The President of the Corporation is Victoria B. Camacho. The Vice Presidents are Cathy C. Villagomez and Claudine B. Camacho. The Treasurer is Michelle C. Macaranas. The Secretary is Neda B. Camacho.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a grocery store, coin operated laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage and facilities directly related to these activities.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in San Roque, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u rekumenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Esti na inekstendin atkilon siha manmasuhetu para i inaprueban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas gi sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 010 B 96, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 909 square meters, putlumenus mås, yan i Lot No. 010 B 97, kinonsisti i åria ni kåsi guaha 1,072 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya San Roque, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i V & C Enterprises, Inc., i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, yan si Neda B. Camacho.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho. I sigundu Presidenti si Cathy C. Villagomez yan si Claudine B. Camacho. I Tresureria si Michelle C. Macaranas. I Sekritåria si Neda B. Camacho.

iii. I maproponi na ekstension atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñora Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai i operasion tendan grocery, coin operated laundromat, inistaplesin måkinan poker, setbisiun gasoline/filling station, mini mart, storage yan fasilidåt siha ni mana'achuli' guini na aktibidåt.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya San Roque, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL EBWE SÓBWEEYLÓ AKKILON-UL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (a) me (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap ekke atotoow ammataf igha e tipáli bwe ebwe tingóór extension reel akkilon mereel eghus falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Lease extension yeel ebwe alúghúlúghló mereel Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas Commonwealth Legislature sángi llól mandate ye e towoow mellól Article XI, § 5(c) mellól Constitution-ul Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Reer toulap schóókka eyoor yaar mwuschel rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng, aweewe me angiingil reel poomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoora lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Akkilon-ul falúw yeel ekke bwáárilló bwe public land Lot No. 010 B 96, emmwel ebwe yoor tiwabwughúw tiwoow (909) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, me ebwe yoor eew Lot No. 010 B 97 sangaras fissigh me ruwoow (1,072) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tiliighil bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyol Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schóól lessee nge V & C Enterprises, Inc, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur Board-ul Corporation yeel nge ikka, Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, me Neda B. Camacho.

President-il Corporation yeel nge Victoria B. Camacho. Vice President nge Cathy C. Villagomez me Claudine B. Camacho. Treasurer nge Michelle C. Macaranas. Secretary nge Neda B. Camacho.

iii. Schóól aweewel pomwol lease extension yeel nge Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe sóbweyló yaal yáali bwuley yeel reel mwóghutul ebwe ayoor grocery store, coin operated Laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage me facilities kka ebwe yáayá reel milikkaal.

Tool abwungubwungul extension yeel nge seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol annual rental reel tool nge ebwe bweibwogh sángi percentage-il appraised fair market value reel properties.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mellól bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Land) esáál bweighbwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye public lands me San Roque, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Secretary of the Department of Public Lands) ebwe bwughil iischil mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa mereel pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli, wóól me ngáre mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) kka elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

CDA divisions post hike in net assets

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two divisions of the Commonwealth Development Authority posted a 5-percent increase in combined net assets from 2009 to 2010, according to the audit report conducted by Deloitte and Touche.

The Development Banking Division and the Development Corporation Division recorded combined net assets of $1,091,246.

"Much of this increase was due to recoveries on previously non-performing loans and the resultant changes in the valuation allowances," the report stated.

Due to recoveries of bad debts, significant changes were also noted in net operating revenues for both divisions in 2010.

DCD had net operating revenues of $1,084,108, with recoveries recorded at $550,526 in 2010 as against recorded bad debt expense of $796,207 in 2009. DBD posted $2,995,164 in net operating revenues, with recoveries recorded at $2,792,451 in 2010 compared as against $290,200 in 2009

DCD also posted a decrease of 86 percent or $2,607,474 in interest and fees earned on loans compared to 2009 which saw an increase by $137,182 or 5 percent "primarily due to a change in the method used to record interest on loans by only recognizing interest earned up to 120 days if the loan is delinquent." DBD posted an 11 percent increase or $14,301 in 2010 compared to the $22,111 or 14 percent decrease in FY2009.

The decrease in earnings on investments suffered by each division is "another area of concern," the report stated.

DCD's invested funds slightly increased by 1 percent from $641,050 in 2009 to $646,978 in 2010. Related earnings on investments decreased by $46,626 or 78 percent. For DBD, it decreased by $4,418,910 or 58 percent, with related earnings on investment going down by $79,551 or 58 percent.

The decrease in the DBD's investments for FY2010 indicates "a continued unattractive rate environment for investing funds."

DBD's operating expenses, which decreased by $156,386 or 94 percent, was due to "lack of expense reimbursements paid to DCD to cover shared costs." DCD's operating expenses, meanwhile, increased by $229,629 or 24 percent.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp., which also carries out CDA's functions, posted in FY 2010 a decrease in total assets, net operating revenues, total net assets, and total operating expenses.

NMHC's total assets were recorded at $19,081,197 due to the use of housing assistance payment equity to fund deficiency in revenues received from the HAP grantor. Total net assets decreased to $11,615,840 or by 3 percent. Net operating revenues were posted at $7,167,505 while total operating expenses were at $8,051,102. Meanwhile, total liabilities increased to $7,465,357 or by 1 percent.

MVA

Couples of Korea television station SBS show "Darling" lounge by the pool at Laolao Bay Golf Resort during filming this month on Saipan.

Korean talk show 'Darling' films on Saipan

Popular Korean talk show "Darling" wrapped up on Sept. 4 the filming of three episodes that will feature celebrity couples exploring their relationships in this beach resort destination.

Sixty-five cast and crew members arrived last Sept. 1 for the filming, which will air beginning Sept. 22 on SBS, one of Korea's top three nationwide TV channels.

"Getting out of the studio and going on a trip to Saipan seems to have enabled more frank talks from the celebrity couples," said Angela Youn of the MVA's office in Korea and coordinator of the location shoot. "Saipan—with its beautiful white coral sand beaches and uncontaminated nature—is the best place to confirm the couples' love."

Eighteen celebrities participated and went on dates with specific themes, including golf, spa, and picnic. The shows will air starting Sept. 22 at 11:15pm on SBS.

"Darling" has an 8.5 percent viewership rating and is especially popular among women ages 30 to 50. The estimated ad exposure value of the shoot is $6.9 million. Korea is one of the CNMI's primary tourism markets. The filming was supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Asiana Airlines, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Hana Tour. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Couples of Korea television station SBS show "Darling" play a kissing game at Managaha Island during filming this month on Saipan.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 13, 1999

DPL board clears way for Tinian airport expansion
The Division of Public Lands has approved a conditional conveyance of certain U.S. military land to the Commonwealth Ports Authority for the planned expansion of West Tinian Airport. According to CPA, more than 5.2 million square meters of land to given to CPA will include areas on which the existing West Tinian Airport terminal and runway are now situated and the additional land needed for the new runway project. The ports authority had requested from DPL the conveyance of land as it anticipates the return of a certain parcel of land to the CNMI for the U.S. military. In return, CPA has agreed to grant the use of the airport and landing rights to the U.S. military.

Paradise hotel works fast to comply with DEQ
The Division of Environmental Quality has rescinded a Notice of Violation earlier issued to Paradise Hotel after management immediately addressed an environmental problem in the establishment. "We are happy to report that Paradise Hotel was genuinely concerned about the safety of their guests and employees. They identified and corrected the problem," said DEQ Director Ignacio V. Cabrera. The Garapan establishment was cited by DEQ two weeks ago for violating the CNMI's Safe Drinking Water Standards for Microbiological Contaminants. After being served a Notice of Violation, the hotel moved quickly to identify the problem. The company then proceeded to remedy the situation by following a plan reviewed by DEQ.

Sept. 13, 2000

CPA courts Aloha Airlines to serve CNMI
The Commonwealth Ports Authority is not giving up efforts at courting other airline companies to provide air transport services to the Northern Marianas, in attempts to revive the islands' distressed travel industry. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas last month met with officials of the Honolulu-based Aloha Airlines for a discussion on the company's possible deployment of flights between Saipan and major cities in Asia. Some of the markets offered by the ports authority to Aloha Airlines include cities in Japan as well as charter flights for the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and air transport services between the three major islands in the CNMI.

BOE asks Senate to revisit education act
The State Board of Education has prodded the Senate to review the board's input on a legislation that seeks to overhaul the public education sector. In a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona, BOE members and the Public School System raised concerns that the House Committee on Education cleared the initiative without accepting suggestions made by BOE and PSS. This, after the House Committee on Education earlier solicited the public education sector's comments to the proposed changes under the education act. BOE Chair Frances H. Diaz and Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos have expressed opposition to a provision designating the Department of Public Works as overseer of construction and major renovation work at public and school facilities.

Sept. 13, 2001

Fractured NMI families linked to suicide cases
The increasing number of suicide incidents in the Northern Marianas is brought about by fractured families, societies and culture, which pressure the youth to take responsibilities that are a lot bigger than them. In a pastoral letter issued yesterday by the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho noted that the local community sees an alarming trend in suicide cases involving youths because their families failed to give them spiritual guidance. "If we do not hear the call to examine this problem in depth and in prayer, we can expect more to come. There are no easy solutions since the causes are spiritual, psychological, societal, and cultural. No individual or group can carry the burden alone," said Bishop Camacho.

Internet slow after terror attacks
Internet traffic slowed and major news Web sites were jammed Tuesday as people craving details on the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks flooded online. In contrast, electronic mail was a godsend for many people frustrated by clogged telephone voice circuits. The Internet search engine Google directed news seekers to radio and television. "Many online news services are not available, because of extremely high demand," a statement read on the popular site's home page. Television broadcasts did not appear to promote their Web sites as heavily as they normally do during breaking news.

DURING ZONING OFFICE PUBLIC HEARING

Community supports Blue Water Homes' permit application

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Only two community members expressed opposition to the conditional use permit application of Blue Water Homes at the public hearing conducted by the Zoning Office at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Thursday.

Zoning board chair Diego Blanco and Blue Water Homes LLC's Michael S. Sablan separately confirmed the two dissenting opinions during the topping off ceremony of Sandy Beach Homes last Friday.

"One opposed the application totally and the other opposed the size of the proposal and wanted it toned down," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune*.

Blanco said the purpose of the hearing was to gather inputs from the public regarding the application.

"The law allows this type of development in the area on a conditional basis," noted Blanco. "The zoning board will set conditions if it issues a permit to ensure that everyone's concerns are addressed."

Sablan said, "Except for the two, everyone else is in support of the project," adding that 15 individuals backed the Blue Water Homes application and spoke at the hearing in support of the project.

Blanco added that they will put together all comments on the application and wait for the applicant to submit some more documents before they hold another public hearing to decide on the application.

Blue Water Homes is the second affordable housing project that applied for and got approved under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joins Sandy Beach Homes LLC's Bob Jones and other officials during Friday's topping off ceremony of the first affordable housing project to benefit from the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Last Thursday, the Zoning Board conducted a public hearing for the conditional use permit application of Blue Water Homes, another affordable housing project that will be constructed south of Chalan Kanoa Beach Club.

The board of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., which administers the LIHTC program in the CNMI, approved Blue Water Homes LLC's application during its meeting last month.

Blue Water Homes LLC, according to Sablan, is made up of Triple J Saipan, Western Pacific Economic Development Group, himself, the Jones family, and a non-profit group. These entities also comprise Sandy Beach Homes LLC.

Sablan said they presented the project concept and preliminary design at the public hearing which lasted for two and a half hours.

"We're very pleased with the comments that we received. Very, very pleased. I think many of the residents not only in the area but on Saipan see the progress we're making with Sandy Beach Homes and the objectives of this program, which is basically to provide lower income families the opportunity to also live a good life," he said.

The Blue Water Homes project involves the construction of 80 units that are two-, three-, and four-bedroom units with a price tag of $30 million. Just like Sandy Beach Homes, it will "emphasize a lot on green technology" with its solar water heater and Energy Star appliances.

Sablan said Blue Water Homes will also be "within walking distance" to schools, stores, and other establishments since it will be put up south of Chalan Kanoa Beach Club.

"The project site involves four separate lots and we have secured the leases on three of the four. Hopefully, we'll close the deal on the last place," he disclosed.

Sablan noted that they would still need to secure additional permits from the Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Public Works.

$15K grand prize at ARC-NMI Club 200

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Some $32,000 worth of prizes are at stake for the 23rd Annual Club 200 event by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter slated for Oct. 29 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

"We have our usual great assortment of prizes, from cash prizes, airline tickets and hotel stays to water park passes and dinner certificates," executive director John Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune*.

Grand prize is $15,000, according to Hirsh.

Tickets for the biggest fundraising dinner and raffle event of the humanitarian organization's local chapter are priced at $100 each.

Hirsh said 2,000 tickets were printed for this year's Club 200 which has the "Fantasy Island Beach Party" theme.

"We didn't really want to call it a Halloween party but because it's Fantasy Island, people can come and dress whatever they like. We're really excited about it. It's going to be a lot of fun," said Hirsh.

Even with the economic recession in the Commonwealth, Hirsh said they remain optimistic that they would sell the event tickets.

"Obviously, we're up against a big downturn in the economy. But I think people have always turned up for the Red Cross event because they know all the things that we're doing in our community. Plus people really enjoy the party. It's always fun. It's a great time to get together with friends," he said.

According to Hirsh, this year's event will feature a live band and a treasure chest just like last year. He disclosed that they are also thinking about doing a silent auction but it's not yet confirmed.

Hirsh said that while tickets are available at their chapter office along Airport Road, there are sellers that can deliver the tickets in any part of the island.

"If you call us and say you're in Capitol Hill or Kagman, we can try to find a ticket seller who works or lives in that area and deliver the tickets to you or we'll have somebody from the office run down and deliver a ticket to you," he said.

Hirsh urged the community to support the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross. "Please come and support our Club 200 event. Your money stays local here but you're supporting the Red Cross movement around the world."

For ticket purchase or more information, call 234-3459.

Fitial to proclaim ESGR Week today

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will proclaim today, Sept. 12, the week of Sept. 12 to 16, 2011 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, Week in the CNMI.

The proclamation signing will take place at 9am at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill, in front of service members, who have left and continue to leave their jobs when called to serve the islands and nation and protect our way of life.

Also present will be employers who also make the sacrifice when their employee-service members are away on military service.

The proclamation is a reminder that men and women continue to put their lives on the line to honorably defend our freedom. The sacrifice is shared by their families and their employers and we need to recognize and appreciate their support.

Following the proclamation will be a joint resolution by the CNMI Legislature in their chambers.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support of Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

For more information on this proclamation or any ESGR Program, contact Capt. Josephine Blas, Public Affairs Director for the ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee at 671-735-0456 or Janice Tenorio, CNMI Area Committee Volunteer, at 670-233-7150. ***(ESGR)***

TINIAN NHS MEETING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

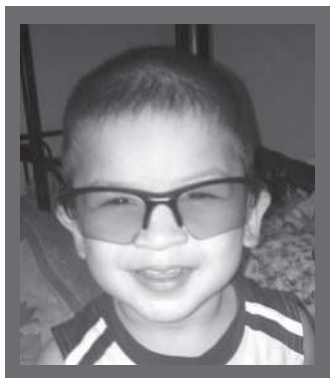
Tinian Jr. Sr. High School's National Honor Society Officers started off the school year with a meeting with their new adviser. From left, adviser Mrs. Lizabeth M. Hofschneider, NHS president Megan Cruz, vice president Ervin Cruz, secretary Chloe Hofschneider, treasurer Rikkie Farrell, historian Marquina Hofschneider, parliamentarian Patrick Kwon, public information officer Alonica Anore, and NHS representative Seo Yun Ahn."

US Coast Guard searches for missing outrigger canoe crew

HONOLULU—Coast Guard rescue crews are searching for two fishermen aboard an outrigger canoe near Fanning Island Sunday.

Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu watchstanders received a call from a search and rescue coordinator in Kiribati requesting assistance in the search for a 12-foot outrigger canoe with two people aboard. The fishermen departed from Fanning Island Saturday. The boat was last seen by another fishing boat Saturday at approximately 3pm trying to haul in fish.

A Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point is helping search for the two people aboard the outrigger canoe. ***(USCG)***



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 3rd birthday to our "Sunshine" Joshua Quitugua Celis! With lots of love, Mommy, Daddy, sister, and brothers!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Get smarter on security

In the 10 years since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. policymakers have done some things right and many things wrong. Yet they have been remarkably disinclined to learn from their mistakes.

To mark the anniversary, many media reports have assessed the impacts of the federal spending and policy changes that resulted from the attacks. In The Times, for example, staff writer Ken Dilanian examined the effects of laws making it possible for federal investigators to collect, analyze and store digital data and other communications from Americans, with little or no judicial or congressional oversight. The extent of this eavesdropping is kept secret, but a handful of high-profile cases have shown that even the once-privileged communications between a defendant and his lawyer are no longer off-limits, and that the ability to obtain a warrant without probable cause is leading to snafus such as the investigation of Oregon lawyer Brandon Mayfield, mistakenly considered a suspect in the 2004 Madrid train bombings. That doesn't appear to bother Congress, which in May overwhelmingly approved a four-year extension of the Patriot Act.

Meanwhile, the House in May approved a defense spending bill giving the president the authority to use military force against "Al Qaeda, the Taliban and associated forces" whether they have any connection to the 9/11 attacks or not. That goes well beyond the powers handed to President Bush after the attacks and is in essence an authorization for endless war, against enemies of the commander in chief's choosing. It comes amid military-led nation-building exercises in two countries that have largely failed to create their own democratic institutions despite vast expenditures of American blood and treasure.

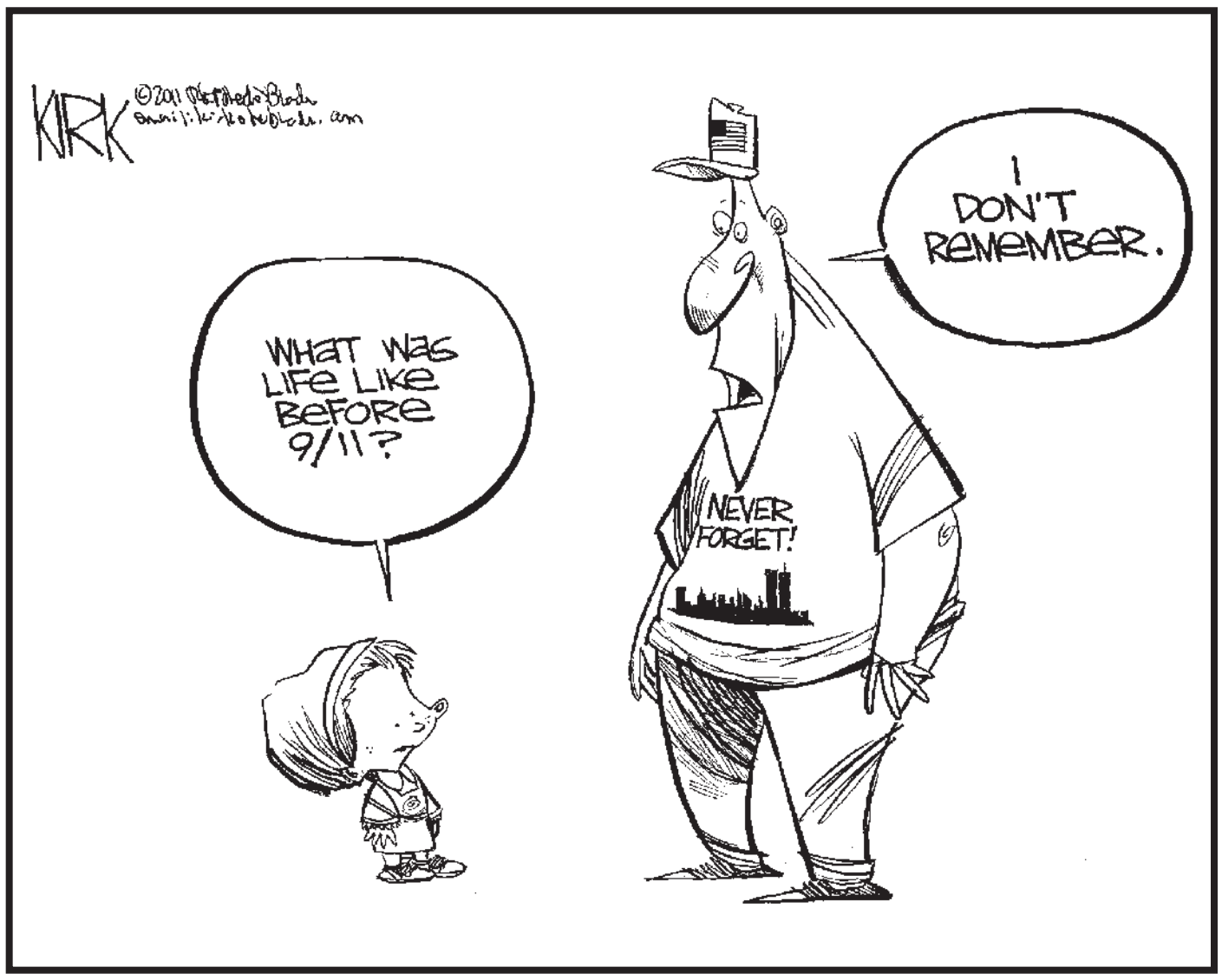
The aforementioned wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost an estimated $4 trillion, and the U.S. now spends about $75 billion a year on domestic security. As Times staff writer Kim Murphy reported, a good portion of that homeland security money has been spread around for projects of highly dubious value, such as on cattle prods in Nebraska lest terrorists launch biological warfare against cows, and on an armored vehicle for the Glendale police. Yet even as Congress reassesses spending priorities in other federal departments in its zeal to reduce the deficit, there has been scant effort to examine the effectiveness of these programs or to trim the Department of Homeland Security's bloated budget.

As the Transportation Security Administration approves increasingly intrusive methods of screening passengers at airports, it's growing ever more questionable whether the safety benefits are worth the cost. To prevent terrorists from boarding a plane with plastic explosives concealed inside their clothing, security officials are now using airport scanners to view naked images of passengers. If terrorists adjust to the new regime by hiding explosives in their body cavities, which current scanners can't penetrate, it's reasonable to wonder what new types of probes fliers will be subjected to.

In the arena of foreign policy, meanwhile, the United States has focused extensively and successfully on securing the cooperation of foreign countries in the war against terror. But while doing so, it has ignored other priorities, such as expanding trade or combating climate change, that would have a far bigger effect on future prosperity and thus, arguably, on domestic security.

To be sure, not all of the nation's efforts since 9/11 have been wasted. Al Qaeda's ability to wage attacks overseas has been severely degraded, Osama bin Laden is no more, and untold numbers of dangerous enemies of the United States are dead or detained. There has not been a major terrorist attack on U.S. soil since that terrible day, which is either a tribute to the effectiveness of our security operations or an indicator of the incompe-

See GET on Page 11



Israel and Turkey were tossed a lifeline, and didn't take it

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

This week, Israel and Turkey missed a critical chance to repair their frayed relations. Their mistake—in rejecting a promising diplomatic opening—has jolted an already-unstable region. It will also prove costly for both countries.

Yet politicians in Jerusalem and Ankara failed to grasp this outstretched lifeline—indeed, tossed it away.

The lifeline was held out by the United Nations' Palmer Commission, which just released a long-delayed report about Israel's raid on the Turkish aid ship Mavi Marmara. Last year, Israeli commandos killed eight Turkish civilians on the ship, along with a Turkish-American, as they tried to prevent an aid flotilla from breaching their naval blockade of Gaza. Turkish-Israeli relations, already chilled by Israel's 2008 invasion of Gaza, went into the deep freeze. Turkey demanded an apology and compensation, which Israel refused.

The Palmer panel offered a way around the impasse. It recognized Israel's right to impose and enforce a naval blockade on Gaza in order to prevent weapons from reaching Hamas—which has rocketed Israeli towns and cities. But the panel sharply criticized the raid, calling the military action "excessive and unreasonable" and the loss of life unacceptable. Five of the nine were shot in the head at close range, most had multiple bullet wounds, and 55 were wounded.

As the panel makes clear, Israel had a legal right to search the ship, but made a bloody mess of it. In private, knowledgeable Israelis concede that the raid was ill-conceived and poorly conducted. An apology was definitely warranted, but Israel insisted its acts were justified in the name of self-defense.

So the panel provided a formula under which Israel could apologize for the conduct of the raid, but not the naval blockade. As of midsummer, Turkish and Israeli diplomats had concocted language that appeared acceptable to both sides.

Indeed, when I last wrote on this issue in July, Israeli diplomatic sources told me Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was considering an apology for unintentional "operational mistakes" during the raid. Defense Minister Ehud Barak endorsed this idea because he believed the Israeli-Turkish relationship was strategically vital.

But on Sunday, after weeks of dithering, and after the report's contents were leaked, Netanyahu said Israel "need not apologize." Now Turkey has expelled the Israeli ambassador and promised more tough measures against Israel.

"Diplomats had agreed on a formula, but the politicians rejected it," says Alon Liel, a former Israeli ambassador to Turkey; he believes an apology should have been issued. Netanyahu apparently bowed to objections by his hawkish foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who vehemently lobbied against saying sorry. Or, perhaps, the Israeli prime minister got cold feet.

"I think this was a mistake," Liel said. "Israeli-Turkish relations are entering a new era. Turkey will become a hostile country and will be active against Israeli interests in the Middle East." The Obama administration is still making efforts to paper things over, but Liel was pessimistic. "It's all over," he said. "There's no apology possible now."

Some Israelis argue that Turkey Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan wouldn't have accepted the compromise that his own diplomats had agreed on. They note that the Turkish leader now calls for an end to the naval embargo in addition to his earlier demands.

We'll never know, since Netanyahu opted not to test Erdogan.

Instead, Israel's leaders said no, and Turkish leaders have responded with chilling rhetoric. Israel lost a crucial Muslim tie, and Turkey its vaunted ability to mediate between Arabs and Israelis.

Both countries now reject the Palmer panel's conclusions that held the key to reconciliation. Israel made a strategic mistake, and Turkey is worsening the situation. History will not treat this episode kindly: The Palmer panel's offer of a win-win has been turned into a lose-lose.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The day after 9/11

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

While the U.S. recalls the moonscape cratered on Manhattan, we are nursing a cup of tea and biting on a mooncake. It is mid-autumn festival in Dong Bei, referred to as the two days between summer and winter, as the day is still warm enough but no longer involves a sweat, and the nights now require a light jacket to ward off the cool Siberian winds.

We remember the "Day After" series, two of which are big hits; the 1983 movie set after a nuclear blast in a Midwest USA city, and the other in 2004, of a climatologist's frenzied effort to get to his son stuck in NYC before he and his group freezes in an altered climate scenario. The ending of this last one was worth more than a giggle. It was a scene of frantic crossings of those from north-of-the-border into Mexico for its warmer clime, at a time when we were expending millions on the construction of border fences!

We already staked our eschatological hope in our reflection yesterday that America is not heading to the dogs, alarming contrary evidence not withstanding. Washington Post's Dana Milbank's "The irrelevancy of the Obama presidency" and NYT's Paul Krugman's "Setting their hair on fire" attest to the weakness of the office of the President even as Obama's strong words in Congress fell on deaf ears. His 911 "we shall not live in fear" is noteworthy more as an opening salvo to a campaign year than anything else!

MIT's Noam Chomsky's statement in 2008 that the United States is a failed state causes colleagues to bewail the situation and attempt to fix what is perceived to be broken. The Obama presidency symbolizes a nation's continued dependence on a central figure (the President) and an archaic representative democracy (Congress) to make decisions, using an irrelevant formula of monetary, fiscal, and labor policies in an imaginary free-market equilibrium of aggregate supply and demand, a leftover from Keynesian economics that has no relevance whatsoever in the evolution of the financial market that presently rules the world. A more fundamental evolution on the nature of the nation-state, global sustainability, local participation, and universal significance is quietly occurring.

Our reflection yesterday on Ground Zero: Transforming the Tragic Terrain of Terrorism hit a few listservs before we went to print, and we were amazed at the depth of reflection that ensued. We were forwarded Chris Hodges recount of his experience a decade ago including a gut-wrenching claim that "we are what we loathe." The telling is riveting, compelling, indicting, and recognizably truthful, best digested with a shot of Scotch, perchance, to avoid existential angst, or possible unsettling dreams.

Some colleagues have commented that we hold a rosier view of America than what is warranted by current experiences of many, particularly in the visible animosities exhibited by combating political camps, but equally compelling is the sense that a phoenix has risen from the ashes of 911.

In yesterday's commemoration, as we recalled the vivid pictures of buildings collapsing (see Alan Taylor's Atlantic article "9/11: The Day of the Attacks" www.theatlantic.com) and heard again ground zero shrouded in otic/odic mayhem of wails and sirens, sensing the rupture of violence invading our internal airs while the smell of death lingered on our bodies even from a distance as we sensed a profound violation of the tranquility of our souls, we, nevertheless, did not lose heart. In spite of our clarity that our officials might have squandered the natural goodwill of the world after the attacks by opening two war fronts in Iraq and Afghanistan, we refuse to fall into the convenient lap of cynicism and despair. Eschatological hope of a person-of-faith abides "in peace that passes all understanding." It is a choice that many has made.

There is an old story of how a city in its iniquities was saved from divine wrath because of one person of faith, and in a sense, we identify with that person though we do not find ourselves a soloist in a resounding cosmic hallelujah chorus of resurgent humanity. In the resolve "over my dead body, by gum," we dare not allow the agents of destruction triumph over the reality of budding spring flowers; we do not find ourselves alone in the summer of our maturity as a nation.

Methinks "America the day after" may have flubbed its steps on the fearful shadows of its nightmare, but the grand wake up call by-the-Hudson sharpened our sense, broadened our compassion, and remanded the boundaries of our being into the edges of the improbable and the seemingly impossible.

Of our immediate familiarity, we concur with the image-shifting work of the Ecozoic folks to an appreciation of the grandeur of the product of evolution as an integral part of our being rather than obsessing with its continuing exploitation, the "Yes!" work on refocusing economics and politics to Main Street, to name a couple.

We bothered to "declare" a week ago in our Eco-Democracy series to contextualize our attempts at small circles of relationship and networks of trust engaged in reflection and participation around the world. It is, indeed, the day after. From where we stand, with mooncakes, we move on! What's offing in your sector of the planet?

Pearl Harbor and 9/11: A fleeting day of infamy

By JON WIENER
Los Angeles Times

Jon Wiener teaches history at UC Irvine and writes for the Nation *magazine. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

If you Google "Pearl Harbor and 9/11," you get more than 4 million hits. In George W. Bush's 9/11 interview on the National Geographic Channel last week, he said Sept. 11, 2001, eventually will be marked on calendars like Pearl Harbor Day: a day never to be forgotten by the people who lived through it. But on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, it's instructive to consider the way Pearl Harbor Day was remembered on its 10th anniversary.

In fact, on Dec. 7, 1951, Pearl Harbor wasn't remembered, at least not prominently in the major newspapers and magazines. There was a reason the Japanese attack in 1941 received so little commemoration on its 10th anniversary: In 1951, the U.S. was fighting a new war on the Korean peninsula, and had just signed a security treaty with Japan, which made it a crucial ally and staging base for the Korean War. Remembering Pearl Harbor could interfere with the nation's new mission.

The spirit of the 10th anniversary of Pearl Harbor was best expressed by the Washington Post in its lead editorial that day, which discussed the importance of Japan as an ally in the struggle against communism in Asia. Because of that struggle, "the Japanese American alliance ought to be maintained in harmony," the editorial concluded. "It is to this future rather than to the past that thoughts should be directed on this anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day."

In other words, don't remember Pearl Harbor. Think about the communists in Korea instead.

The *L.A. Times* front page on Dec. 7, 1951, made no reference to the anniversary. The lead stories reported on new "atomic artillery" that could be used in the Korean War, and heavy snow on the ridge route. The second section did have a column on the Pearl Harbor anniversary, which opened, "This is the day on which innumerable Americans ... will be tempted to go about boring other Americans to death with their reminiscences of where they were and exactly how they heard the news" a decade earlier. Of course this form of boredom could be avoided—by not reminiscing about Pearl Harbor.

The New York Times had nothing about the anniversary on its front page on Dec. 7, 1951. The news there was of a possible truce in Korea, and street fighting in Tehran between thousands of communists and "anti-Red civilians." It did run an editorial. The meaning of Pearl Harbor, the editors wrote, was that, since Dec. 7, 1941, "it has not been possible for us to deny our historic mission in modern history"—resisting "aggression." In 1951, that meant fighting the communists: "Over vast areas where hundreds of millions of people live, the human spirit is still enslaved ... and the aggressors are as furious as ever Hitler was."

But of course Hitler didn't attack Pearl Harbor. The country that did attack is barely mentioned in the editorial.

As for 10th anniversary commemorations in Hawaii at Pearl Harbor itself, an Associated Press story was headlined "War Noises Again Mar Peace of Pearl Harbor" and reported that "the sprawling naval base supplies men, ships and ammunition to today's area of combat in Korea."

Life magazine's cover story that week was "Harry Truman's wardrobe," a nine-page photo essay. *Time* magazine's cover story was about the rise of the *Reader's Digest*. *Life* did not run a story on the anniversary, but *Time* did. It reported that "for the foreseeable future, Japan is solidly encamped with the free world," and "the U.S. must recognize that full and equal partnership is the only basis for mutual, long-term friendship in the face of a common enemy."

Thus on the 10th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Americans were told it was time to forget about what happened on Dec. 7, 1941, because we needed Japan's help to fight communism in Asia.

As UC Irvine historian Emily Rosenberg explained it in her book "A Date Which Will Live," historical memory is not fixed. Lessons that seem crucial at one point can be ignored at another. Memory, even of the most unforgettable events, is unstable and can be transformed by new circumstances.

No doubt this is as true for Sept. 11, 2001 as it was for Dec. 7, 1941.

Letter to the Editor

Critical issues and challenges

The current economic situation has affected the Office on Aging in that austerity measures were implemented at the center. They have been in effect since the beginning of the fiscal year and it was not until last week that they were finally lifted.

During the time of austerity, the staff worked only 64 hours per week. Clients, as a result lost valuable time at the center as they were not permitted to enter during austerity hours. Now that the measure was lifted, the office staff is back to an 80 hour work week. The clients now receive the full benefit of the aging center as it is now open Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm.

Clients are also experiencing difficulties with regards to the increase in gasoline, food, and electrical charges. In the CNMI, products are twice the amount you would pay stateside, making it even harder for citizens to survive. Most clients live paycheck to paycheck, with some, barely able to purchase necessities.

What is happening? The Office on Aging provides various services to their clients, including transportation, food, and daily activities. Some daily activities include recreational activities (bingo, billiards, ground golf, etc.), computer class, music class, dance class, arts and crafts, water therapy, and daily stretching and walking. Clients may partake in any activity they please while benefiting from the daily breakfast and lunch served at the center. Clients are also able to run errands as needed. Transportation for errands is provided by the Office on Aging.

If I was an advocate for the elderly I would want to see them become more independent. Outreach programs at the center are vital for self sufficiency as clients will learn exactly how to get the help they need. Legal services are currently offered when needed, however more programs to help clients become self sufficient are essential. Trainings for the office staff are important as well. Staff should be trained on how to properly care for clients during their time at the center. They should be able to assist them in obtaining the services they desire, whether it is legal, health, transportation, etc., while maintaining privacy at all times. Lastly, having healthier, more active clients is a significant goal of the aging center. Healthier meals and more activities will prove beneficial for the clients.

Teddy Guiao
Navy Hill

GET

From Page 10

tence of our enemies. Protecting Americans is and should remain a top priority of the federal government. But what rankles is that decision-making on terrorism and security still seems to be dominated by the same sense of panic that took hold in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. After 10 years we have learned quite a bit about what works and what doesn't, yet there has been far too little attempt to change the policies that don't.

As the nation looks back today, and rightly honors those who lost their lives, we'd urge Americans — and especially lawmakers — to put a little thought into looking forward too. Today, the number of people killed annually by Muslim terrorists outside war zones is roughly equal to the number who die in bathtub accidents, according to Ohio State University professor John Mueller, who has written extensively on terrorism risks and expenditures. That doesn't mean fighting terrorism should no longer be a priority, but it does mean we need to be sure that we balance it rationally with other priorities that are equally important.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

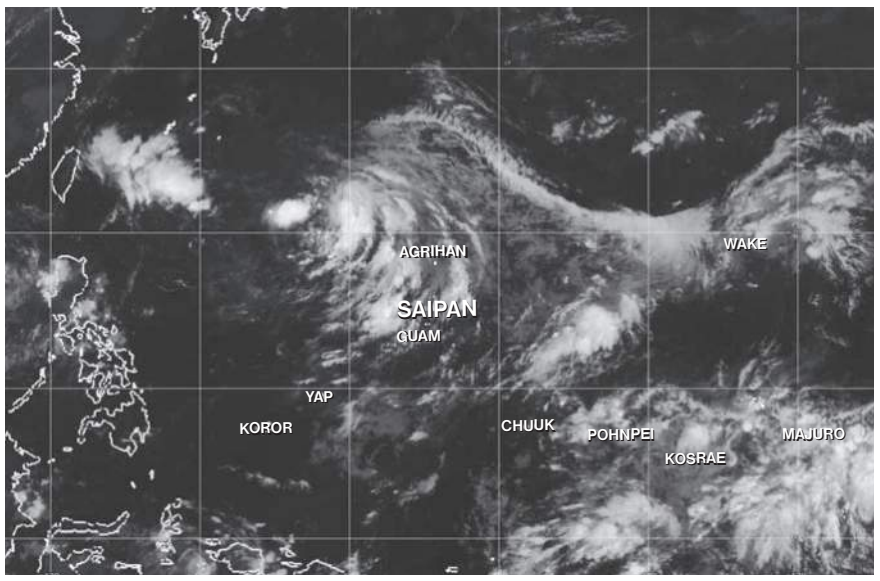
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼74
Kosrae	Rain	▲82	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲80	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼52
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼76
London	Windy	▲62	▼53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲63	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼75
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼48
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼67
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼54
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼55
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼69
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲87	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough curves eastward from the northern Philippines through 20N130E and newly formed Tropical Depression 18W centered at 21N136E to end at 20N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east and southeast of the center of 18W and across the Northern CNMI within an area bounded by a line from 24N144E to 16N149E to 13N141E to 23N135E back to 24N144E. For more information on Tropical Depression 18W, refer to advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located east of Saipan in convergent winds around a weak circulation between 13N and 18N from 149E to 158E. Surface convergence near a trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of Pohnpei and over Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro between the equator and 9N from 157E to the date line. A trade-wind trough is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers near Wake Island between 16N and 21N from 164E to 172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:40 PM	6:26 AM
Wednesday	7:16 PM	7:13 AM
Thursday	7:54 PM	8:00 AM
Friday	8:34 PM	8:49 AM
Saturday	9:17 PM	9:38 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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NMC to host free crisis management seminar

The Northern Marianas College will be holding a free crisis management seminar entitled "Crisis Communications and Media Response Training for Today's Leaders" on Sept. 28 from 9am to 12pm. The seminar is open to the general public and will be held in Room D1 at the College's As Terlaje campus.

The seminar will feature Richard Brundage, a widely recognized crisis communications expert, and will focus on preparing key communicators for any media appearance.

Participants will engage in discussions about the formulation of messages in person, in print, or in electronic media and how to improve an organization in a critical situation. Participants will also learn more than 50 techniques to improve their media appearances.

"This is a very valuable seminar for anyone who regularly communicates with the public on behalf of their organization," said Community Development Institute program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong.

In addition to developing this seminar, Richard Brundage is known for his book *The Heart in Communicating*. He has trained various medical, corporate, legal, educational, government, and industrial leaders and was recently selected by the State Department to train new U.S. Ambassadors.

Because of interactive group activities in the seminar, seating will be limited to the first 75 registrants. To register or for more information, please contact Les Ogumoro-Uludong by phone at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or by email at logumoro@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Public's input sought on Mariana Islands Training, Testing EIS/OEIS

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with military readiness training and research, development, testing and evaluation ("training and testing") activities.

Training and testing activities may include the use of active sonar and explosives in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The MITT Study Area includes the existing Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC), additional areas on the high seas and a transit corridor where training and testing activities may occur.

Public scoping meetings

The military services encourage public input and involvement to identify community concerns and issues for analysis in the EIS/OEIS during this scoping phase of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. To inform and involve the public, the services will hold five open house public meetings to discuss the scope of the MITT EIS/OEIS and obtain public input.

The public scoping meetings will be held from 5pm to 8pm at the following locations. The public may arrive at any time during each scoping meeting. There will be no formal presentation. Military representatives will be available to discuss and answer questions on the project and the Proposed Action.

Guam

Date: Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011
Location: University of Guam Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Date: Friday, Sept. 23, 2011
Location: Southern High School, Cafeteria
#1 Jose Perez Leon Guerrero Drive
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

Saipan

Date: Monday, Sept. 26, 2011
Location: Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

Tinian

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011
Location: Tinian High School, Cafeteria
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Rota

Date: Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011
Location: Sinapalo Elementary School, Cafeteria
Sinapalo I, Songsong Village
Rota, MP 96951

Commenting information

Public comments will be accepted throughout the 60-day comment period, from Sept. 8, 2011, to Nov. 7, 2011. All written comments must be postmarked or received online by Nov. 7, 2011, to be considered in the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Written comments may be mailed to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific

Attention: MITT EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Comments may be submitted online at www.mitt-eis.com or submitted in person at the public scoping meetings.

Background

The military services propose to conduct military readiness training and testing activities within the MITT Study Area. The Proposed Action would support training and testing activities associated with new weapons, combat systems, sensors, related equipment and force structure changes within the MITT Study Area to ensure critical military requirements are met. This action is needed to support applicable environmental reauthorizations, consultations and other associated environmental requirements for those training and testing activities. The MITT EIS/OEIS is the reevaluation and reauthorization of training and testing activities reviewed in the MIRC EIS/OEIS, which the Navy completed with community input in 2010.

Humanities Council to present lecture series with Chamorrica scholars

The general public is invited to a presentation by Prof. Dr. Thomas Stolz and Barbara Dewein, who will share information related to the Chamorrica project.

The lecture will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10am at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre.

Chamorrica aims to translate, re-edit, and annotate various documents on the Chamorro language that were produced between 1668 and 1950.

Members of the community will have an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to share with the visiting scholars concerns related to Chamorro language planning and revitalization.

From the Universitat Bremen in Germany, Stoltz and Dewein are also meeting with local researchers and scholars involved in efforts to study and preserve the Chamorro language.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call 235-4785 or visit the Council website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

LET THERE BE LIGHTS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability has begun the process of installing 40 solar walkway lights on campus. The standalone solar lights will be installed behind the Health Sciences Building, MARC, the Computer Center, the Library, and in front of the dormitories to improve exterior lighting and safety on campus. Photo shows technicians installing a solar lighting panel in front of Dorm 1 on the UOG campus.

UOG's Center for Island Sustainability program debuts at Inarajan Middle School

INARAJAN, Guma—The University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability (CIS) debuted its Island Sustainability Awareness Program (ISAP) at Inarajan Middle School yesterday.

ISAP, created by CIS Energy Technician Francisco Palacios, aims to educate students about sustainability issues from an island perspective. "We need to increase awareness about sustainability on island and we are also trying to promote energy literacy for our students," Palacios says.

The program was created to educate middle and high school students about sustainability issues. The program lasts for up to one week for middle school students and two weeks for high school students.

The students will receive information about several issues such as the definition of island sustainability, the disadvantages of the community's dependence on fossil fuel, energy conservation and energy auditing, as well as information on renewable and alternative energy sources. Palacios, accompanied by some of the UOG Green interns, will give presentations, show videos, and provide hands-on examples regarding these topics.

"This type of education is very important because we live in a time where energy resources and cost are real issues for our island. This program raises student awareness about such matters and shows them how to take simple steps to conserve energy and become environmental stewards for the island," said Palacios.

Aside from Sept. 12, ISAP will also present at Inarajan Middle School on Sept. 14 and 16 from 8:40am to 2:45pm. ***(UOG)***

OIA awards $317K in technical assistance to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo recently announced that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has awarded $317,800 in technical assistance grants to five organizations on Guam. Congresswoman Bordallo commended Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta for awarding these TA grants to help support community needs on Guam.

Catholic Social Services (CSS) will receive $100,000 to help CSS purchase new handicapped-accessible service vans to enhance services provided to island residents. The vans would be used to support pantry and thrift shop programs that help address homelessness and families in need. Vans would also be used to transport CSS clients to medical appointments, job training and employment sites.

The Mayors Council of Guam will receive $75,000 to purchase generators and flood lights for emergency preparedness and to support community activities in the evening. The generators and flood lights would be used to support clean-up operations following natural disasters, assist in traffic control at night, and assist first responders at major incidents at night.

The Guam Fisherman's Cooperative will receive $58,000 to promote the marketing of fish by the Co-op by improving storage and refrigeration facilities. The funds will be used to make modifications to the Hagåtña Harbor to provide easier access to the fuel pier for small boats.

The Guam Farmers Cooperative will receive $50,000 to promote sustainable agriculture by obtaining drip irrigation lines and high-yield fertilizer for Co-op members.

The Guam Veterans Affairs Office will receive $34,800 to upgrade its information systems. This upgrade will enable interoperability with the Federal Hawaii VA office to improve benefit claims services to veterans as well as reduce waste, fraud, and abuse.

"These technical assistance grants will address important needs in our community," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "The funds will improve services provided by these organizations by helping them to improve their products, increase marketability, and enhance their services to clients. In each case, a modest amount of funds will greatly improve their ability to serve our community for many years to come. I commend Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta for his leadership in expediting these grants and for his cooperation in working with me in identifying areas where we can get the biggest bang for the buck. These five grants are examples of how a modest federal investment in our community can have a major impact on services provided by our government and by non-profit organizations, and it is a model for how technical assistance can be more effective in the future." ***(PR)***

Business

Among travelers on Sept. 11, unease and confidence

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Some travelers were plainly jittery about flying Sunday. Others weren't worried, confident that security would be tight on the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11. And some figured, well, whatever happens, happens.

In Los Angeles, Kim Pinney, who operates a daycare center in Virginia, booked the latest flight home possible from a friend's wedding in the belief that that would minimize her chances of falling victim to a terrorist attack.

"If something was going to happen, it would happen during the day and then it would be over," she said in a telephone interview Saturday. Since her flight was at 11 p.m. Sunday, she added, "Technically, I'm flying for an hour on 9/11 because it will be 9/12" for most of the flight.

Authorities and travelers were clearly on edge:

■ Two fighter planes escorted a New York-bound American Airlines jet after three passengers locked themselves in a bathroom during the flight from Los Angeles, officials said. A law enforcement official said the incident was not believed to be terrorism-related. The plane landed safely at Kennedy Airport.

■ A man was detained at the Kansas City, Mo., airport and a terminal shut down after authorities found suspicious items in his carry-on bag. Authorities said the items tested negative for explosive materials, but they gave no further details on what they found.

■ A rental truck parked at a curb at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport caused a brief scare. Authorities became alarmed when the driver said, "I got a couple of guns," but he turned out to be a member of the crew of the Discovery Channel program "Sons of Guns"—a reality show about a custom gun shop—and he was waiting for a co-worker, FBI official Kevin Gentry said.

Reminders of the day's significance were palpable in airports across the U.S. and beyond.

At Boston's Logan Airport, where the jetliners that brought down the World Trade Center took off, ticket agents, baggage screeners and other workers paused at 8:46 a.m. for a moment of silence to mark the time the first plane struck the twin towers.

At the Tampa, Fla., airport, an honor guard of law enforcement officers carried flags while a bagpiper and a bugler played.

Matt Yates, an accountant traveling from John Wayne Airport in Southern California to Atlanta and Florida for business, wore an American flag shirt that he dons on patriotic occasions.

And Genevieve Mercier, a nurse who passed the time with a French novel about a plane crash, arrived at John Wayne 3 1/2 hours early for her flight home to suburban Montreal in anticipation of heavy security.

In many ways, there were signs of Sept. 11 all around, even if passengers didn't immediately realize it.

Travelers in line at the checkpoints had to take out their driver's licenses—one of the many security measures introduced after the terror attacks. And at John Wayne, someone left behind a belt at the X-ray machine, and an announcement came over the public address system asking the owner to claim it.

In Los Angeles, Mindy Garrett of Arizona was flying with her husband and their two children to San Diego to visit SeaWorld and the zoo.

"I knew it was Sept. 11, but CNN said the threats were on the ground not in the air. And LAX is a big airport," she said.

"It just worked out to be the best date for us. I mean, if someone's going to blow me up...," husband Thomas added with a shrug.

AP

Los Angeles airport police carrying automatic weapons patrol a curbside drop-off area Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011 as travelers prepare to board flights at Los Angeles International Airport, the destination of three of four hijacked aircraft, on the 10th anniversary of terrorist attacks on the U.S.

In Russia, UK's Cameron seeks trade and new ties

MOSCOW (AP)—British Prime Minister David Cameron arrived in Russia for a rare visit Sunday, seeking to secure crucial new trade and warmer ties with an often difficult ally, five years after the poisoning death of a Kremlin critic in London exposed bitter differences.

Cameron was making the first visit to Russia's capital by a British leader in six years, and will hold the first talks by any British official with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in more than four years—hoping to revive relations before the ex-president's possible return to power in a 2012 election.

Accompanied by Foreign Secretary William Hague and business executives, including oil company BP's chief executive Bob Dudley and Royal Dutch Shell CEO Peter Voser, Cameron will attempt on the two-day visit to increase trade with another awkward partner after similar trips to India and China.

Cameron wants to kick-start Britain's stagnant economy by targeting emerging markets, but the policy has caused concern among those who fear it may lead the U.K. to overlook the human rights records of new allies.

Ahead of the visit, Russia's Embassy in London said its website was brought down in an apparent cyberattack.

Ties between Britain and Russia soured over the 2006 poisoning death of dissident ex-Russian security agent Alexander Litvinenko in London. On his deathbed, Litvinenko accused Putin of authorizing his killing.

Russia has repeatedly refused British requests for the extradition of the chief suspect in the case, ex-KGB agent Andrei Lugovoi.

British government officials acknowledged Cameron would raise the issue, but said the leader's visit would be focused on businesses opportunities—knowing there is little prospect of progress on the Litvinenko case.

Litvinenko's friend Alex Goldfarb said the dissident's widow and associates were disappointed that Cameron had agreed to meet with Putin.

Putin's last contact with any British official was a brief phone call in June 2007 to congratulate Cameron's predecessor Gordon Brown on his appointment. Cameron has met four times with Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev.

The last visit by a British leader to Russia was Tony Blair's trip to attend a G8 summit in St. Petersburg in 2006. Blair also held meetings in Moscow in 2005.

"It is understandable that there is need for trade and better international relations, but Mr. Putin has blood on his hands," Goldfarb said. "The meeting is a change of policy, and is an endorsement of Mr. Putin, it is very disappointing."

In a joint letter to Britain's Sunday Times newspaper, four former foreign secretaries called on Cameron to press Russian leaders over Litvinenko and on the regime's hostility toward businessmen and journalists, including jailed oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Last month, BP complained that a Moscow office had been illegally raided after Russian bailiffs accompanied by armed policemen searched its premises in connection with a lawsuit.

Russian officials plan to press Cameron to resume intelligence cooperation, after Britain halted work with security agencies in response to Litvinenko's death.

"We believe that this is in the interests of both countries and in the interests of all countries in the world," Russia's ambassador in London Alexander Yakovenko said.

Yakovenko acknowledged that Britain had shown no indication that it planned to change its stance. "Everything is in the hands of the British side. We are ready," he said.

Jonathan Evans, the head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency MI5, told a committee of lawmakers in a private evidence session last year that Russia and China posed a significant espionage threat in the U.K.

$89.5M in loan proposals available to NMI businesses, infrastructure project

Independence Bank of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, an FDIC insured financial banking institution, is pleased to announce the issuance of loan proposals to CNMI-based businesses and government entities totaling $89.5 million.

Independence Bank makes commercial loans throughout the United States and U.S. territories and commonwealths, specializing in U.S. government guaranteed loans. Independence Bank is known for structuring loans using combinations of equity, debt, and grant funds, to the benefit of the borrower.

"Our knowledge of the U.S. government loan programs and grant programs allows us to structure loans and bring them to fruition for our clients, even start up businesses that most banks won't even look at," said Independence Bank director Michael Sammartino.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer loan proposals to qualify businesses and government entitles in the CNMI. Each loan signifies job retention and job creation, which is the cornerstone of the economic recovery that the Commonwealth and the United States needs today."

Sammartino said that Independence Bank's issued load proposals cover a wide range of businesses and infrastructure projects throughout the CNMI, including a power business, three renewable energy projects, two airline projects, a port expansion improvement project, and a farmers cooperative loan program, among others.

Sammartino added, "Several of our loan proposals have already been accepted by various clients, and we are moving forward with the loan process. We look forward to funding these loans. We know others will soon be accepting our proposals. The real message is that Independence Bank is making business loans in the CNMI, and we welcome all loan proposals. We will be back in October, visiting clients in Rota, Saipan, and Tinian, and we will continue to meet with clients during each of our quarterly visits. We will eventually be looking to open a loan office in Saipan to service our clients in the region."

Independence Bank commercial lending can be contacted at 1-877-525-8583, ext. 318 or 401-471-6318 or email msammartino@independence-bank.com. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China says cooling inflation still top priority

BEIJING (AP)—China's central bank said Monday that cooling surging prices still is its top priority even after inflation eased slightly in August. The announcement might disappoint companies and investors who hope Beijing will respond to a slowing global economy by reversing repeated interest rate hikes and other curbs imposed in an effort to cool China's overheated economy. Beijing is trying steer growth that hit 9.5 percent in the latest quarter to a more sustainable level even as Washington and other Western governments struggle to shore up tepid growth and prevent a renewed global recession.

Asian stocks tumble amid Europe debt worries

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets fell sharply Monday, with sentiment soured by renewed anxiety about Europe's debt problems and heavy Wall Street losses before the weekend. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average lost 2 percent at 8,562.47 as the index hit fresh six-month intraday lows. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index shed 3.2 percent to 19,231.69. In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 plunged 3.5 percent to 4,048.60.

White House: Obama to send jobs bill Monday

WASHINGTON (AP)—A White House official says President Barack Obama will send Congress his new $447 billion jobs bill Monday and speak in the Rose Garden to call for swift passage. Obama is also preparing to travel the country to build public support for the package he unveiled last week. He'll visit Ohio Tuesday and North Carolina Wednesday to ask voters to pressure lawmakers to pass the bill. The centerpiece of the plan is lower Social Security payroll taxes for individuals and businesses. There's also new spending to hire teachers and rebuild schools, among other things.

Nation

Hope and heroism: Obama hails post-9/11 resilience

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ten years after the nation was unified in horror, President Barack Obama honored the legacy of Sept. 11 victims on Sunday by personally tracing the trail of the terrorist attacks, proudly declaring that the decade since has proven "America does not give in to fear."

At ground zero, Obama stood in solidarity with President George W. Bush right where hijacked airliners smashed into the twin World Trade Center towers in 2001. He touched the names of those etched into a bronze memorial amid the rush of its striking waterfalls.

In a field in western Pennsylvania, Obama strolled along a marbled Wall of Names that stands in tribute to the 40 people who crashed in Shanksville after fighting back against the terrorists. Obama seemed to shake the hand of every person he could reach.

In the rebuilt Pentagon just outside the nation's capital, the symbol of U.S. military might attacked by terrorists that day, Obama placed a wreath at a memorial where each of 184 victims is remembered. A brass quartet played a soulful rendition of "Amazing Grace."

And finally, back in Washington, after a day he chose to mark mainly by quiet presence, the president spoke of the pride of a nation.

"These past 10 years have shown that America does not give in to fear," he said. Nor to suspicion or mistrust or sacrificed values, he said.

"Our people still work in skyscrapers," Obama said during an evening ceremony centered on American hope and resilience.

"Our stadiums are still filled with fans, and our parks full of children playing ball. ... This land pulses with the optimism of those who set out for distant shores, and the courage of those who died for human freedom."

This was not a day centered on politics.

Rancor fell away, as it always tends to do on Sept. 11. Yet this anniversary felt different.

Ten years.

Obama's principal role was simply to be there—to be there at every site—as the nation remembered the nearly 3,000 lives lost and ponder all that has transpired.

On a brilliant, sun-splashed morning, Obama and his wife, Michelle, first walked with Bush and his wife, Laura, to the new North Memorial Pool at New York's ground zero. All four touched the names etched in bronze and silently bowed their heads. The former president wore his anguish clearly.

They then turned to dispense greetings and hugs to family members of those who died.

Obama read Psalm 46, which he chose because it speaks of perseverance.

"God is our refuge and strength," Obama said, "a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear."

Bush gave Obama a quick nod of solidarity after the president's reading. It was the first time the two presidents had seen each other since their Rose Garden appearance after the Haiti earthquake in January 2010.

A little boy, sitting on his dad's shoulders with a pacifier in his mouth, watched the solemn ceremony and took off his baseball cap in respect.

Obama heard family members of the victims read off their lost loved ones' names and bring their memories to life.

The presidents and their wives stood behind bullet-proof glass during the ceremony, an indication of the tight security surrounding the day's events. In Washington, Obama's chief counterterrorism adviser convened a meeting in the Situation Room to review security threats.

Obama's stop in Shanksville drew spontaneous applause and chants of "USA" from those at the memorial site. Obama and his wife lingered at the site to pose for photos with visitors, greet children and share some laughs.

His mood seemed to brighten the longer he went.

"Thanks for getting bin Laden," one man called out, referring to the Sept. 11 mastermind tracked down and killed in Pakistan earlier this year.

The Obamas walked to a boulder that marks the actual crash site and stood quietly together in a field of wildflowers for a time.

"I think it's just important that the president shows his support for the families that lost loved ones," said Jaleel Dyson, an 18-year-old from Washington who attends college in the area and came to pay tribute to the dead.

At the Pentagon, the Obamas took their time mingling with memorial visitors and victims' family members, some of them wearing ribbons and T-shirts bearing the names and photos of their loved ones. Here, too, amid the sadness, there were smiles and laughter.

Obama, who was an unknown state senator from Illinois when the hijackers struck, has called on Americans to remember and serve—and to come together.

Memories of Sept. 11 echo at rebuilt Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP)—Memories of horror and heroism echoed Sunday across the west side of the Pentagon where, a decade ago, a hijacked airplane carrying 59 doomed passengers and crew and 36,200 pounds of jet fuel smashed into the fortress-like military headquarters, killing all aboard and 125 inside.

At a ceremony attended by an estimated 1,600 people, including 1,200 relatives of the victims, Vice President Joe Biden joined Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in paying solemn tribute to the families of the fallen.

They also highlighted the contributions of the U.S. military since Sept. 11, 2001.

"A generation of Americans stepped forward to serve in uniform, determined to confront our enemies and respond to them swiftly and justly," Panetta said.

After a moment of silence at 9:37 am EDT—the exact time the Pentagon was hit by the jetliner—the Navy Sea Chanters Chorus sang "Amazing Grace."

Mullen offered his condolences to the families, who sat in rows of metal chairs facing the outdoor Pentagon 9/11 Memorial near where the plane struck.

"No music can assuage, no tongue can express, no prayer alone may dampen the yearning that must fire yet inside you," he said. "Lives ended in this place. Dreams were shattered. Futures were instantly altered. Hopes were tragically dashed."

Biden offered an uplifting message of resilience.

"It's a basic American instinct to respond to crises when help is needed to confront the afflicted," Biden said. "An American instinct summoned by the collective strength of the American people that we come to the fore in our darkest hours; an instinct that echoes through the ages from Pearl Harbor to Beirut; from Mogadishu to Ground Zero; from Flight 93 to right here in the Pentagon."

President Barack Obama planned to lay a wreath at the Pentagon memorial later Sunday.

Many details of what transpired that bright, sunny morning in 2001 have been forgotten, or set aside, in the whirl of events in the intervening years.

The Boeing 757, with a wingspan of 124 1/2 feet, slammed into the west face of the Pentagon at ground level, traveling at 530 mph. The instant the nose of the plane made contact a fireball burst upward and rose 200 feet above the roof, according to the Pentagon's official history of the attack. The front of the fuselage disintegrated, but the midsection and rear-end continued inward, cutting a 270-foot path of destruction.

AP

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama lay a wreath as the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks are observed at the Pentagon in Washington, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011.

ACROSS THE NATION

Source: Ex-NYPD officer detained at KC airport

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A former New York City police officer was detained Sunday at Kansas City's main airport after security screeners detected suspicious items inside his carry-on luggage, a local official with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to share the details with the media, said the man had worked for NYPD for a short period more than a decade ago. The security scare happened Sunday morning on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Nevada Guard to honor comrades killed in shooting

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—Three members of the Nevada National Guard shot in a rampage at an IHOP restaurant were remembered by their colleagues Sunday who offered tributes of the victims' selflessness, humor and sense of duty. More than 700 people, many in uniform, hugged and cried in a wind-swept hangar, marking their final farewell to Lt. Col. Heath Kelly, Master Sgt. Christian Riege, and Sgt. 1st Class Miranda McElhiney at the headquarters of the Nevada National Guard.

Military jets safely escort NYC, Detroit flights

NEW YORK (AP)—Fighter jets escorted two flights—one to New York City, another to Detroit—after passengers' use of the bathrooms aroused suspicions Sunday, the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

On a Los Angeles-to-New York American Airlines flight, three passengers made repeated trips to the bathroom, officials said. The three were cleared after the plane landed safely at New York's Kennedy Airport.

Earlier, on a Denver-to-Detroit Frontier Airlines flight, the crew reported that two people were spending "an extraordinarily long time" in a bathroom, Frontier spokesman Peter Kowalchuck said. Police detained three passengers at Detroit's Metropolitan Airport after the plane landed without incident. They were released after questioning.

In both instances, the FBI said the jets shadowed the planes "out of an abundance of caution."

New York, in particular, has been in a heightened state of security after federal officials received a credible but uncorroborated tip of a car bomb plot on the 9/11 anniversary in either New York or Washington.

American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith said the plane's captain never declared a security threat and never asked for law enforcement help. A "security concern" was brought to the airline's attention, the crew used "normal procedures" to assess the circumstances and the plane landed as planned, Smith said.

"In our eyes, it's a big nothing," Smith added.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command scrambled two F-16 jets to shadow American Airlines Flight 34 until it landed safely at 4:10 p.m., the Transportation Security Administration said in a statement.

On the flight, the three passengers made repeated trips to the bathroom and some thought they were using hand signals to communicate, a law enforcement official said. The official was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Two of the men were Israeli and one was Russian, the official said, adding that they were cleared and sent on their way.

FBI spokesman J. Peter Donald said in a statement that the jets were sent to escort the flight "out of an abundance of caution." The FBI interviewed passengers and found "no nexus to terrorism," he said.

A similar scenario played out on Frontier Flight 623.

NORAD spokesman John Cornelio said NORAD sent two F-16 jets to shadow the plane until it landed safely. The craft, with 116 passengers on board, landed without incident at 3:30 p.m. EDT, Kowalchuck said.

The Airbus 318 taxied to a pad away from the terminal, he said. The three escorted off the plane in handcuffs included two men and a woman, passenger Ilona Hajdar of Charlotte, Mich., told The Associated Press.

Authorities cleared the aircraft at 5:15 p.m. EDT after it was searched, the TSA said.

Flight 623 originated in San Diego before stopping at Denver International Airport on its way to Detroit.

Asia

Japan marks 6 months since earthquake, tsunami

TOKYO (AP)—Up and down Japan's devastated northeast coast, survivors prayed and communities came together Sunday to mark six months since the massive earthquake and tsunami struck on March 11, a date that changed everything for them and their country.

As the world commemorated the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks, Japanese parents hung colorful paper cranes for their lost children and monks chanted in front of smashed buildings. Thousands also marched in the streets to demand that the country abandon nuclear power because of damage to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

At precisely 2:46 p.m., they stopped and observed a minute of silence.

The magnitude-9.0 earthquake produced the sort of devastation Japan hadn't seen since World War II. The tsunami that followed engulfed the northeast and wiped out entire towns. The waves inundated the Fukushima plant, triggering the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

Some 20,000 people are dead or missing. More than 800,000 homes were completely or partially destroyed. The disaster crippled businesses, roads and infrastructure. The Japanese Red Cross Society estimates that 400,000 people were displaced.

Half a year later, there are physical signs of progress.

Much of the debris has been cleared away or at least organized into big piles. In the port city of Kesennuma, many of the boats carried inland by the tsunami have been removed. Most evacuees have moved out of high school gyms and into temporary shelters or apartments.

The supply chain problems that led to critical parts shortages for Japan's auto and electronics makers are nearly resolved. Industrial production has almost recovered to pre-quake levels.

But beyond the surface is anxiety and frustration among survivors facing an uncertain future. They are growing increasingly impatient with a government they describe as too slow and without direction.

Masayuki Komatsu, a fisherman in Kesennuma, wants to restart his abalone farming business.

But he worries about radiation in the sea from the still-leaking Fukushima plant and isn't sure if his products will be safe enough to sell. He said officials are not providing adequate radiation information for local fisherman.

"I wonder if the government considers our horrible circumstances and the radiation concerns of people in my business," said Komatsu, who also lost his home.

Another resident, 80-year-old Takashi Sugawara, lost his sister in the tsunami and now lives in temporary housing. He wants to rebuild his home but is stuck in limbo for the time being.

"My family is not very wealthy, and I only wish that the country would decide what to do about the area as soon as possible," Sugawara said.

He might be waiting for a while. The Nikkei financial newspaper reported this week that many municipalities in the hardest-hit prefecture of Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima have yet to draft reconstruction plans.

Bomb at US base reminder of raging Afghan war

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A powerful Taliban truck bomb that wounded 77 American soldiers and killed five Afghans outside a combat outpost served as a reminder on Sunday that 10 years after the Sept. 11 attacks, nearly 100,000 U.S. troops are still fighting a war that shows no signs of slowing down.

No U.S. troops were killed when the massive bomb loaded on a truck filled with firewood exploded Saturday night just outside the gates of Combat Outpost Sayed Abad in eastern Wardak province. NATO said a protective barrier at the entrance absorbed most of the force of the blast, although the area outside the base was hit hard.

Officials said the Afghans killed included a policeman and four civilians, including a 3-year-old girl. Another 17 Afghans—14 civilians and three policemen—were wounded. The provincial governor said the blast was so powerful it damaged about 100 shops in the nearby Sayed Abad bazaar.

Although Saturday's truck bombing occurred outside the base, the numbers of injuries it caused was significant. Combat outposts usually house about 200 troops.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Earlier, they had issued a statement vowing to fight until all foreign troops leave. The radical Islamic movement, which gave shelter to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida when it ruled Afghanistan, also stressed that it had no role in the Sept. 11 attacks, and it accused the U.S. of using them as a pretext to invade the country.

"The Afghans have an endless stamina for a long war," the statement said. "Through a countrywide uprising, the Afghans will send the Americans to the dustbin of history like they sent other empires of the past."

The attack occurred just over 40 miles (70 kilometers), or about an hour's drive, from Kabul in an increasingly lawless district in a key province that controls a strategic approach to the capital.

Sayed Abad is seven miles (12 kilometers) east of the Tangi Valley, where the Taliban on Aug. 6 shot down a U.S. military helicopter, killing 30 Americans. Many of the dead belonged to the U.S. Navy's SEAL Team 6—the same elite unit that killed bin Laden during a May 2 cross-border raid into Pakistan, where al-Qaida's leadership was driven. It was the deadliest single loss for American forces in the decade-old war.

"Some back home have asked why we are still here," U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said at a 9/11 memorial at the embassy in Kabul. "It's been a long fight and people are tired. The reason is simple. Al-Qaida is not here in Afghanistan, and that is because we are. "

ASIAN BRIEFS

Notorious Philippine kidnap gang leader dies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines military says the leader of a notorious kidnapping gang has died after a long illness. Regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon says Tahir Alonto of the Pentagon Gang died early Saturday of ailments and complications from diabetes. His Muslim separatist group is on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations. Philippine soldiers captured Alonto in 1999, but his men attacked the jail to free him in 2000. The military had reported Alonto was killed in an air strike in 2004. Later reports said he was alive, but it was unclear if the military confirmed it before now. Galon says Alonto "was no longer significant" in the kidnapping gang.

Indonesia sends troops to quell sectarian clashes

AMBON, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia deployed security forces to an eastern region after gangs of Muslims and Christians armed with rocks and machetes clashed in violence that left three people dead and 80 others injured, officials said Monday. The violence broke out in the Maluku provincial capital of Ambon on Sunday after rumors spread that a Muslim motorcycle taxi driver, who died in a traffic accident, had been killed and tortured by Christians, said Capt. Marinus Djati, the Ambon traffice police chief.

World

Official: Gadhafi's son al-Saadi flees to Niger

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—A convoy carrying ousted Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son al-Saadi has crossed into neighboring Niger, a spokesman for Niger's government said Sunday, one of the highest-profile former regime figure to flee to the landlocked African nation.

Al-Saadi, the fugitive ruler's 37-year-old son, entered Niger in a convoy with nine other people, said Niger Justice Minister Amadou Morou. The vehicles were traveling south toward the outpost of Agadez, where other fleeing Libyan loyalists are believed to be holed up in a hotel.

"I wish to announce that one of Gadhafi's sons—al-Saadi Gadhafi—was intercepted in the north of Niger by a patrol of the Nigerien military," Morou told reporters late Sunday.

He said al-Saadi "has no status at all" in Niger, indicating that he has not been granted refugee status, which would guarantees him certain rights.

Since last week, several convoys carrying senior officials of the former Libyan regime as well as civilians and soldiers have made their way across the porous desert border into Niger. Among them were several of Gadhafi's top military officers, including his chief of security and the head of his southern command.

Niger has faced increasing scrutiny for allowing the former regime members onto its soil, and al-Saadi's arrival will likely intensify international pressure on the country to cooperate with Libya's new rulers. They want all Gadhafi's sons—and Gadhafi himself, who is on the run—to be turned over for trial.

AP

Al-Saadi Gadhafi, third son of the Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi, speaks to the media as he arrives in Sydney, Australia in this Saturday Feb. 5, 2005 file photo.

Last week, the U.S. urged Niger to detain any individuals who may be subject to prosecution in Libya, as well as to confiscate their weapons and impound any state property, such as money or jewels, that were illegally taken out of the country.

While some senior former regime officials have managed to escape, Libya's new leaders have arrested several former high ranking regime officials since then-rebel fighters swept into Tripoli on Aug. 21, effectively bring an end to Gadhafi's nearly 42-year rule.

On Sunday, anti-Gadhafi forces in Tripoli captured the former head of the regime's external intelligence service, Abu Zayd Dourda, said Anes Sharif, a spokesman for Tripoli's military council. A longtime Gadhafi insider, Dourda also served as prime minister in the 1990s.

As Libya's new leaders move to exert their authority in Tripoli, forces loyal to Gadhafi continue to hold out in three strongholds—Sirte on the Mediterranean coast, Sabha in the southern desert, and Bani Walid southeast of Tripoli.

Revolutionary forces battled their way back into Bani Walid Sunday, seizing control of the northern half of the town and fighting supporters of the fugitive dictator in the town center.

After a week of efforts to negotiate a peaceful surrender of Bani Walid, anti-regime fighters launched a two-pronged assault on the town that soon dissolved into street fighting. But Gadhafi supporters have put up fierce resistance, and forced former rebels to retreat Saturday amid a barrage of rocket and mortar fire.

Libyan fighters pushed back into the town Sunday, a day after retreating under heavy fire, said fighter Sobhi Warfali. He said revolutionary forces now control the northern half of the town and were battling regime loyalists in the center.

Resident Khalifa al-Talisi said "the rebels don't control the center yet, but everything from the city center to this (northern) side is liberated."

Around a mile (kilometer and a half) from the town center, a cluster of abandoned houses in the desert showed signs of fierce fighting. The charred hulk of a car stood in front of a still-burning home that sent plumes of black smoke into the air.

WORLD BRIEFS

Retired general leads in Guatemala election

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A retired general promising to fight rampant crime had an early lead in national elections, as Guatemalans appeared poised to choose a former military man for the presidency for the first time since democracy was restored in 1986. Otto Perez Molina of the Patriot Party, known for his symbol of an "iron first," had 37 percent support, followed by businessmen Manuel Baldizon with 24 percent and Eduardo Suger with 15 percent, according preliminary results released just before midnight Sunday. Seven other candidates shared the remaining votes. But with less than 3 percent of the voting stations counted, election magistrate Ulises Gomez said it was too early to confirm a tendency.

7 oil workers found alive in Gulf of Mexico

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—Seven of 10 oil workers missing in the Gulf of Mexico were found alive Sunday, according to Mexico's state oil company, three days after evacuating their disabled rig in a tropical storm and escaping in an enclosed life raft. Two bodies also were found but have yet to be identified, and rescuers are still searching for one worker who remains missing, Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said in a statement. Pemex identified the survivors as two Americans, Jeremy Parfait and Ted Derise, Jr., both of Louisiana, Kham Nadimuzzaman of Bangladesh and Mexicans Ruben Velasquez, Eleaquin Lopez, Luis Escobar and Ruben Lopez Villalobos.

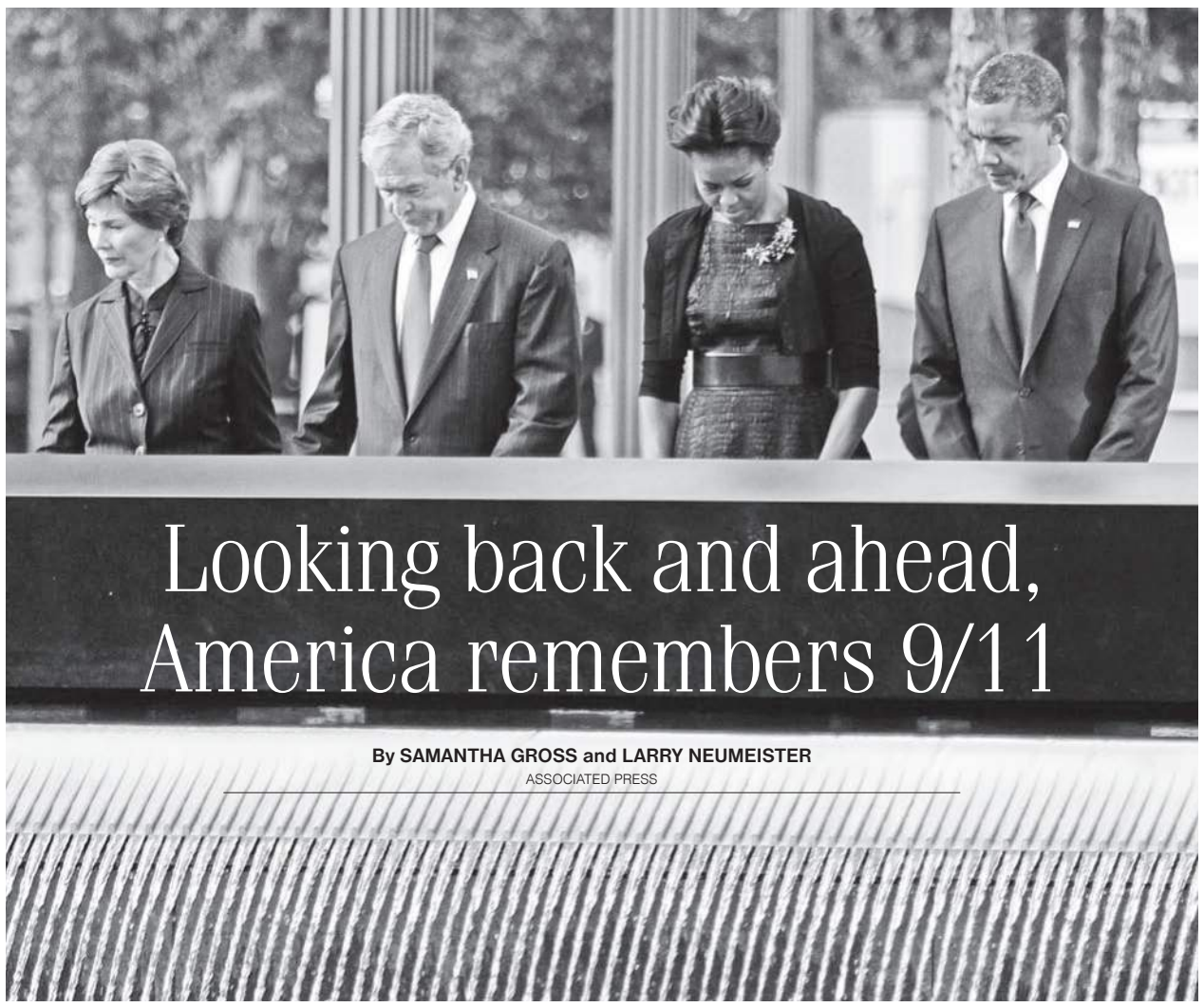
Iraq cleric to followers: Stop attacking US troops

BAGHDAD (AP)—An anti-American cleric is urging his followers to stop attacking U.S. troops in Iraq so that their withdrawal from the country isn't slowed down, a call meant to ramp up pressure on Baghdad's political leaders who are considering asking some American forces to stay. In a statement posted on his website, Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr told his militias to halt attacks against U.S. forces till the withdrawal is finished at the end of the year as required under a security agreement between Washington and Baghdad. "Out of my desire to complete Iraq's independence and to finish the withdrawal of the occupation forces from our holy lands, I am obliged to halt military operations of the honest Iraqi resistance until the withdrawal of the occupation forces is complete," al-Sadr said in the statement, posted late Saturday. Sadrist lawmaker Mushraq Naji confirmed the statement on Sunday.

Focus

Looking back and ahead, America remembers 9/11

By SAMANTHA GROSS and LARRY NEUMEISTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
President Barack Obama, right, first lady Michelle Obama, second from right, former President George W. Bush, second from left, and former first lady Laura Bush observe a moment of silence at the National September 11 Memorial for a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the attacks at World Trade Center, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, in New York.

Determined never to forget but perhaps ready to move on, the nation gently handed Sept. 11 over to history Sunday and etched its memory on a new generation. A stark memorial took its place where twin towers once stood, and the names of the lost resounded from children too young to remember terror from a decade ago.

In New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, across the United States and the world, people carried out rituals now as familiar as they are heartbreaking: American flags unfurled at the new World Trade Center tower and the Eiffel Tower, and tears shed at the base of the Pentagon and a base in Iraq.

President Barack Obama quoted the Bible and spoke of finding strength in fear. George W. Bush, still new to the presidency that day, invoked the national sacrifice of the Civil War. Vice President Joe Biden said hope must grow from tragedy.

And Jessica Rhodes talked about her niece, Kathryn L. LaBorie, the lead flight attendant on the plane that hit the south tower. She remembered a radiant smile and infinite compassion, and suggested that now, 10 years on, it is time to turn a corner.

"Although she may not ever be found, she will never ever be lost to her family and her friends," Rhodes said after she read a segment of the list of the dead at ground zero. "Today we honor her by letting go of the sadness over losing her and embracing the joy of having known her."

It was the 10th time the nation has paused to remember a defining day. In doing so, it closed a decade that produced two wars, deep changes in national security, shifts in everyday life - and, months before it ended, the death at American hands of the elusive terrorist who masterminded the attack.

"These past 10 years tell a story of resilience," Obama said at a memorial concert at the Kennedy Center after he visited all three attack sites.

"It will be said of us that we kept that faith; that we took a painful blow, and emerged stronger," he said.

The anniversary took place under heightened security. In New York and Washington especially, authorities were on alert. Ahead of the anniversary, the federal government warned those cities of a tip about a possible car-bomb plot. Police searched trucks in New York, and streets near the trade center were blocked. To walk within blocks of the site, people had to go through checkpoints.

The names of the fallen—2,983 of them, including all the victims from the three Sept. 11 attack sites and six people who died when terrorists set off a truck bomb under the towers in 1993—echoed across a place utterly transformed.

In the exact footprints of the two towers was a stately memorial, two great, weeping waterfalls, unveiled for the first time and, at least on the first day, open only to the relatives of the victims. Around the square perimeter of each were bronze parapets, etched with names.

Some of the relatives were dressed in funereal suits and others in fire department T-shirts. They traced the names with pencils and paper, and some left pictures or flowers, fitting the stems into the recessed lettering.

At the south tower pool, an acre in area and 30 feet deep, Mary Dwyer, of Brooklyn, remembered her sister, Lucy Fishman, who worked for Aon Corp., an insurance company that occupied seven floors near the very top.

"It's the closest I'll ever get to her again," she said.

One Sept. 11 relative pronounced the memorial breathtaking. An underground section and a museum won't open until next year, but for many of the families, the names were enough.

"It breaks me up," said David Martinez, who watched the attacks happen from his office in Manhattan, and later learned that he had lost a cousin and a brother, one in each tower.

At memorial services, people talked of grief and loss and war and justice. But they also talked of moving forward.

"Every year it becomes more significant," Barbara Gorman said at a service for the Port Authority dead, which included 37 police officers, one of them her husband, Thomas. "My kids are 25, 21, 18. They understand now. It's not so much a tragedy anymore as history, the history of our country."

In the decade between then and now, children have grown. The second-graders who were with Bush on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, will graduate high school next spring. And children who were in the cradle or the womb on that day are old enough to read names at the anniversary, old enough to bear the full burden of their grief.

"You will always be my hero," Patricia Smith, 12, said of her mother.

Nicholas Gorki remembered his father, "who I never met because I was in my mother's belly. I love you, Father. You gave me the gift of life, and I wish you could be here to enjoy it with me."

Alex Zangrilli said: "Dad, I wish you were here with me to give me advice, to be on the sidelines when I play sports like all the other dads. ... I wish we had more time together."

Madeline Hoffman smiled as she said to her father: "Everyone always tells me I look and act just like you." And Caitlin Roy, whose father was a firefighter, said: "I want to thank you for the nine years you spent as my dad. They were short but not without their benefits. We're taken care of now. We're happy."

Obama, standing behind bulletproof glass and in front of the white oak trees of the memorial, read a Bible passage after a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., when the first jetliner slammed into the north tower 10 years ago.

The president, quoting Psalm 46, invoked the presence of God as an inspiration to endure: "Therefore, we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

Obama and Bush, joined by their wives, walked up to one of the pools and put their hands to some of the names. Bush later read from a letter that President Abraham Lincoln wrote to a mother believed to have lost five sons in the Civil War: "I pray that our heavenly father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement."

In a ceremony at the Pentagon, Biden paid tribute to "the 9/11 generation of warriors."

"Never before in our history has America asked so much over such a sustained period of an all-volunteer force," he said. "So I can say without fear of contradiction or being accused of exaggeration, the 9/11 generation ranks among the greatest our nation has ever produced, and it was born—it was born—it was born right here on 9/11."

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta paid tribute to 6,200 members of the U.S. military who have died in the Iraq and Afghan wars. One hundred eighty-four people died at the Pentagon.

In Shanksville, Pa., a choir sang at the Flight 93 National Memorial, and a crowd of 5,000 listened to a reading of the names of 40 passengers and crew killed aboard the fourth jetliner hijacked that day a decade ago. Obama and his wife traveled to the Pennsylvania town after their visit to New York and placed a wreath at the memorial.

During the president's visit, members of the crowd chanted, "USA! USA!" One man called out: "Thanks for getting bin Laden!" It was the first anniversary observance since al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan in May.

In a brief scare, two military aircraft escorted a New York-bound American Airlines flight from Los Angeles. Three passengers made repeated trips to the bathroom and some people thought they were using hand signals to communicate, but the men were cleared and sent on their way, said a law enforcement official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said earlier reports that the men had locked themselves in the bathroom were incorrect.

Fighter jets also shadowed a Denver-to-Detroit Frontier Airlines flight after the crew reported that two people were spending an unusual amount of time in the bathroom. The FBI said a search of the plane turned up nothing and three passengers were questioned and released.

"Due to the anniversary of Sept. 11, all precautions were taken, and any slight inconsistency was taken seriously," said Sandra Berchtold, an FBI spokeswoman in Detroit.

For the most part, in New York, away from the trade center, it was a pleasant September Sunday. People had brunch outdoors. Bicycles crowded the paths along the Hudson River. Families strolled around. Sailboats caught a river breeze and drifted past the dock where emergency vessels evacuated trade center survivors.

Elsewhere in the nation, it was a day not to bring life to a stop, as it was 10 years ago, but to pause and reflect.

Outside FedEx Field in Landover, Md., fans got ready for the first Sunday of the NFL season, the Redskins and Giants, Washington and New York. There was extra security at the stadium. Scott Millar, a Redskins season ticketholder, used the logic of post-Sept. 11 America in deciding to go to the game.

"You've got to trust the security. You've got to trust the people who are here to protect you," he said. "We're here to have a good time."

In southwest Missouri, where 160 people died in May in the nation's deadliest tornado in six decades, New York firefighters and ground zero construction workers joined survivors in a tribute to the victims of Sept. 11.

The New York contingent brought a 20-by-30-foot American flag recovered a decade ago from a building near the trade center. Survivors of a Greensburg, Kan., tornado began repairing the flag in 2008, using remnants of flags from their town. The final stitches are being made in Joplin, Mo., and then the flag will go to the National 9/11 Memorial Museum. Missouri is the last stop on a 50-state tour to promote national unity and volunteerism.

"We're so far away from the World Trade Center," said Christy Miller, who brought her mother and two children to the Joplin tribute. "But it doesn't matter how far away you are."

Some observed the day as a time to serve. Thousands cleaned parks, renovated community centers and gave blood as they did in the days after the 2001 attacks. Some said they were trying to reclaim good will that they said has been lost amid political rancor and economic fear.

"As unfortunate as it was, it seemed like it put us all back into the frame of mind that life wasn't just about me," said Yvette Windham, who joined 200 people to build seven new homes in a Nashville, Tenn., neighborhood.

The world offered gestures large and small. The Colosseum in Rome, rarely lit up, glowed in solidarity. Pope Benedict XVI encouraged people to resist "temptation toward hatred" and focus on justice and peace. Taps sounded in Belgium and in Bagram, Afghanistan. In Madrid, they planted 10 American oak trees in a park, led by a prince.

And in Malaysia, Pathmawathy Navaratnam woke up Sunday in her suburban Kuala Lumpur home and did what she's done every day for the past decade—say "good morning" to her son, Vijayashanker Paramsothy, who was killed in New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

"He is my sunshine. He has lived life to the fullest, but I can't accept that he is not here anymore," Navaratnam said. "I am still living, but I am dead inside."

The Taliban marked the anniversary by vowing to keep fighting against U.S. forces in Afghanistan, insisting that they had no role in the Sept. 11 attacks. They railed against "American colonialism" and said Afghans have "endless stamina" for war.

Hours later, a Taliban suicide bomber blew up a large truck at the gate of a Combat Outpost Sayed Abad in Afghanistan's eastern Wardak province, killing two civilians and injuring 77 U.S. troops.

"Some back home have asked why we are still here," U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said at a 9/11 memorial at the embassy in Kabul. "It's been a long fight and people are tired."

"We're here," he said, "so that there is never again another 9/11 coming from Afghan soil."

Overdrive

Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Let me tell you about the Myth of the Car Guy and how it sucked some of the joy from the otherwise transcendent 2012 Ford Mustang Boss 302.

The myth of the car guy says that "real" car guys—red-blooded, power-shifting, curve-carving enthusiast drivers; gender is immaterial—don't care about features that make a car more comfortable and convenient. Those things are sissified widgets that get in the car guy's way, diluting the pure experience of driving.

The myth of the car guy leads people to say stupid things. Like the classic canard that Ferrari engines sound so sweet the cars don't need stereos, because anybody worthy of driving a Ferrari will only want to hear the engine. So why was Ferrari the first automaker to offer an entire sound system developed by Bose?

Sadly, the Ford team that developed the amazing Mustang Boss 302 bought the myth. They endowed the car with the best handling of any Mustang I've ever tested and perhaps the sweetest exhaust note a Ford has ever issued, but left out must-have features like hands-free phone and iPod compatibility.

Driving the Boss 302 is sheer joy, until you want to call friends to tell them about the wonderful car, or cue up your road trip playlist. Then the experience changes to frustration and the fear of an expensive ticket for using a handheld phone while driving.

Ford's been rewriting the automotive engineering textbook on a regular basis lately. First, it turned engine expectations on their heads with a V6 that tows more and uses less fuel than a V8 in the F-150 pickup.

Now, with the Boss 302, Ford engineers have wrung an extra 32 horsepower from a sweet-sounding V8 without any increase in fuel consumption. They also coaxed ride and handling that rival an independent rear suspension from the pony car's solid axle.

That makes Ford's decision to omit the hands-free phone and voice-recognition features it pioneered particularly galling. The Mustang Boss 302 is a marvelous car to drive that doesn't even try to compete with the amenities its competitors offer.

The latest in the seemingly endless array of models in the Mustang's stable, the Boss 302 harks back to Ford's heated racing competition with the 1969 Chevy Camaro. Its V8 engine displaces 302 cubic inches—which converts to 5.0 liters, the size of Ford's excellent current V8. The original Boss got styling tweaks from Larry Shinoda, the brilliant designer who created the legendary Corvette Stingray at General Motors.

Prices for the 2012 Mustang Boss 302 start at $40,145. The Boss 302 features a 444-horsepower 5.0-liter V8 and six-speed manual transmission. I tested a lightly optioned car that stickered at $42,635. All prices exclude destination charges.

Ford also offers a $6,995 Laguna Seca option package. It deletes the rear seat and adds racy goodies like red-painted 19-inch machined aluminum wheels and dry-weather, summer-only Pirelli P-Zero Corsa race compound tires.

The Mustang Boss 302 competes with sports coupes like the Audi S5, BMW 335is, Chevrolet Camaro SS, Dodge Challenger SRT8 and Lexus IS F.

The Boss 302's engine features new camshafts, computer programming, air intake and exhaust piping. Horsepower rises, but torque falls 10 pound-feet, to a still-strong 380. Unofficial timers consistently put the Boss' 0-60 time in the low 4-second range.

Opening the throttle invokes an engine note that simultaneously throbs and soars. It's like holding a racetrack to your ear and hearing the rush of nearly 50 years of race-bred Mustangs.

The Boss 302 uses regular gas. It burned less fuel than the Camaro SS and Challenger SRT8, Infiniti G coupe or Lexus IS F in EPA tests.

A revised suspension includes new springs, stabilizer bars, manually adjustable shocks and Pirelli's P-Zero summer tires. It clings to corners and absorbs bumps better than a base Mustang and begs comparison to luxury sport coupes.

The electrically assisted power steering is fast, responsive and nicely weighted.

The exterior features eye-grabbing stripes, sparkling optional metallic paint, low-profile tires and dramatic black or red-painted multi-spoke wheels.

Unfortunately, the Boss 302's interior doesn't match its exterior looks and mechanical brilliance. Dash and door wrappings that are fine in the $22,145 base Mustang become inadequate north of 40K. The Alcantara-wrapped steering wheel and Recaro seats only highlight the rest of the interior's shortcomings. Like all Mustangs, the Boss 302 could also use more storage cubbies.

Unlike other Mustangs, you can't order a navigation system or Ford's Sync voice-control for phone, music, nav and other systems in the Boss.

That's just foolish. Yes, the Boss 302 is a "driver's car," fast, fluid and fun to fling around a corner. Try that explanation when the California Highway Patrol writes you a $190 ticket because you couldn't find the Laguna Seca racetrack and called for directions.

It borders on irresponsibility that the company that pioneered mass-market voice recognition doesn't offer it in the otherwise stellar Boss 302.

Ford developed the amazing Mustang Boss 302 with the best handling of any Mustang one reviewer says he has ever tested and perhaps the sweetest exhaust note a Ford has ever issued, but left out must-have features like hands-free phone and iPod compatibility.

MCT

Q&A: Electrical gremlins make for balky window, doors

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE

QUESTION: The power lock on the left rear door of my 1994 Buick Regal no longer locks. I took the car to the shop where they said to just save my money and lock it manually by pushing the button down. But now the power window in that door doesn't work _ it won't go up or down. The other three windows work fine. What's causing this?

ANSWER: The wiring harness for both the power door lock and power window are routed through a rubber duct between the door post and door, and are flexed every time the door is opened/closed. Since neither the power door lock nor window function, it's entirely possible there's a frayed or broken wire inside this harness.

Also, since the door pivots on lubricated hinges, the door frame is electrically grounded by a wire traveling through the same harness. The quick test for a poor ground is to use jumper cables to create an additional ground connection between the door frame and car body, then test the power door locks and windows. The next step would be to check for voltage in the multi-terminal connector C351 that carries voltage into the door to operate the lock and window.

Q: I have a 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee. All of a sudden all my power windows and power door locks quit working. All the fuses and relays have been checked and even replaced as a precaution. When I replaced the vehicle's battery the windows and door locks worked for a few minutes then quit again. Also, the keyless entry remote will not unlock the vehicle. The driver's side window still works and the driver's side power door lock works occasionally. The dealer just wants to sell me a new vehicle.

A: Ask the dealer to connect Chrysler's diagnostic scan tool, called the DRB, and check for fault codes from the BCM _ body control module. Specifically, look for fault codes from the electronic door modules in each front door. The problem may be a simple as a poor connection or ground in one of the two door modules.

Q: I have a 2001 Chevy Blazer with 195,000 miles on it. For the past year or so, the engine will shut down intermittently while driving at any speed from 30 to 65 mph. It always starts right back up after it dies, but there is a smell like burnt matches. I've taken it to several mechanics but it's always running at the time so they say they "can't fix it if it ain't broke."

A: With that many miles on the vehicle and hundreds if not thousands of "on-off" cycles with the ignition key, I'm suspicious of the ignition switch in the steering column. If there are no fault codes from a computer scan and your nose leads you to the steering column as the source of that burnt matches smell, the ignition switch may be worn to the point where one or more electrical contact inside the switch is "arcing" or burned to the point of intermittent connection.

Q: I have a 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan. At speeds over 50 mph and on windy days, there's a noise coming through the ventilating system that sounds like a kid with waxed paper over a comb, playing it like a harmonica. After three trips to the dealer, the noise is still there.

A: I've experienced a similar condition with one of my vehicles recently and it turned out to be the plastic cowl molding at the base of the windshield. I confirmed the source by duct-taping the edges of the cowl molding, sealing them to the glass _ no more noise.

My Alldata database found Chrysler service bulletin No. 23-11-010 describing a buzz or rattle from the right front door glass that's been traced to the door lock rod.

*Paul Brand, author of "*How to Repair Your Car*," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at:* Star Tribune*, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

Life & Style

New book shows another side to Jackie Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a side of Jacqueline Kennedy only friends and family knew.

Funny and inquisitive, canny and cutting. In "Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy," the former first lady was not yet the jet setting celebrity of the late 1960s or the literary editor of the 1970s and `80s. But she was also nothing like the soft-spoken fashion icon of the three previous years. She was in her mid-30s, recently widowed, but dry-eyed and determined to set down her thoughts for history.

Kennedy met with historian and former White House aide Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. in her 18th century Washington house in the spring and early summer of 1964. At home and at ease, as if receiving a guest for afternoon tea, she chatted about her husband and their time in the White House. The young Kennedy children, Caroline and John Jr., occasionally pop in. On the accompanying audio discs, you can hear the shake of ice inside a drinking glass. The tapes were to be sealed for decades and were among the last documents of her private thoughts. She never wrote a memoir and became a legend in part because of what we didn't know.

The book is coming out Wednesday as part of an ongoing celebration of the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's first year in office. Jacqueline Kennedy died in 1994, and Schlesinger in 2007.

The world, and Jacqueline Kennedy, would change beyond imagination after 1964. But at the time of these conversations blacks were still "Negroes" and feminists were still suspect even in the view of a woman as sophisticated as Kennedy, who a decade later would grant an interview to Gloria Steinem's "Ms." magazine. In the book's foreword, Caroline Kennedy faults Schlesinger for asking so few questions about her mother.

As historian Michael Beschloss notes in the introduction, Jacqueline Kennedy once accepted that wives were defined by their husbands' careers and worried about "emotional" women entering politics. She enjoyed having her husband "proud of her," saw no reason to have a policy opinion that wasn't the same as his and laughed at the thought of "violently liberal women" who disliked JFK and preferred the more effete Adlai Stevenson.

"Jack so obviously demanded from a woman—a relationship between a man and a woman where a man would be the leader and a woman be his wife and look up to him as a man," she said. "With Adlai you could have another relationship where—you know, he'd sort of be sweet and you could talk, but you wouldn't ever ... I always thought women who were scared of sex loved Adlai."

There are no spectacular revelations in the Schlesinger discussions and virtually nothing about JFK's assassination. Kennedy's health problems and his extra-marital affairs were still years from public knowledge and from the knowledge of aides such as Schlesinger, who would often say he saw no "bimbos" in the White House halls. Jacqueline Kennedy speaks warmly throughout of her husband, remembering him as dynamic and perceptive and free of grudges, an assignment his wife and others took on for him.

SpongeBob in hot water from study of 4-year-olds

CHICAGO (AP)—The cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants is in hot water from a study suggesting that watching just nine minutes of that program can cause short-term attention and learning problems in 4-year-olds.

The problems were seen in a study of 60 children randomly assigned to either watch "SpongeBob," or the slower-paced PBS cartoon "Caillou" or assigned to draw pictures. Immediately after these nine-minute assignments, the kids took mental function tests; those who had watched "SpongeBob" did measurably worse than the others.

Previous research has linked TV-watching with long-term attention problems in children, but the new study suggests more immediate problems can occur after very little exposure—results that parents of young kids should be alert to, the study authors said.

Kids' cartoon shows typically feature about 22 minutes of action, so watching a full program "could be more detrimental," the researchers speculated, But they said more evidence is needed to confirm that.

The results should be interpreted cautiously because of the study's small size, but the data seem robust and bolster the idea that media exposure is a public health issue, said Dr. Dimitri Christakis. He is a child development specialist at Seattle Children's Hospital who wrote an editorial accompanying the study published online Monday in the journal Pediatrics.

Christakis said parents need to realize that fast-paced programming may not be appropriate for very young children. "What kids watch matters, it's not just how much they watch," he said.

University of Virginia psychology professor Angeline Lillard, the lead author, said Nickelodeon's "SpongeBob" shouldn't be singled out. She found similar problems in kids who watched other fast-paced cartoon programming.

She said parents should realize that young children are compromised in their ability to learn and use self-control immediately after watching such shows. "I wouldn't advise watching such shows on the way to school or any time they're expected to pay attention and learn," she said.

Nickelodeon spokesman David Bittler disputed the findings and said "SpongeBob SquarePants" is aimed at kids aged 6-11, not 4-year-olds.

"Having 60 non-diverse kids, who are not part of the show's targeted (audience), watch nine minutes of programming is questionable methodology and could not possibly provide the basis for any valid findings that parents could trust," he said.

Lillard said 4-year-olds were chosen because that age "is the heart of the period during which you see the most development" in certain self-control abilities. Whether children of other ages would be similarly affected can't be determined from this study.

Most kids were white and from middle-class or wealthy families. They were given common mental function tests after watching cartoons or drawing. The SpongeBob kids scored on average 12 points lower than the other two groups, whose scores were nearly identical.

In another test, measuring self-control and impulsiveness, kids were rated on how long they could wait before eating snacks presented when the researcher left the room. "SpongeBob" kids waited about 2 1/2 minutes on average, versus at least four minutes for the other two groups.

The study has several limitations. For one thing, the kids weren't tested before they watched TV. But Lillard said none of the children had diagnosed attention problems and all got similar scores on parent evaluations of their behavior.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Margarita Jones Castro

Better Known as "Adik or Margarita Josen Santa"
February 19, 1948—September 07, 2011

Mass of Intention is being said nightly at 6:00 p.m. at the San Roque Church followed by the Holy Rosary.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Parents: Manuel Manibusan Castro & Maria Jones Castro
Brothers: Juan Jones Castro & Jauquin Jones Castro
Brother In-Law: Antonio Litulimar Kaipat
First Husband: Jose Lizama Castro
Second Husband: Henaro K. Sebastian

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children:
Marian Jones Castro (Betsy, Amanda, Karlota)
Lourdes C./Ray Duenas (Jason, Alexander Jr., Evalyn, Edelyn,)
George Jones Castro (Georgeen)
Merced C./John K. Sikyang (Eloise, Jarvis, Jed, Josh)
Annette Jones Castro & Winfred (Amber, Vince, Bradley, Brandon, Napu, Loujauna)
Ivan Jones Castro & Hazel (Quilynn, Ivalynn)
Jolynn Jones Castro & Jason (Jason Jr. "JJ")
CPL Elway Castro

Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws: Joseph W./Marilyn P. Jones and Children, Manuel Jones Castro and Children, Nancy S. Castro and Children, Celina C. Kaipat and Children, Juanita C./Juan S. Dela Cruz, Elisa M. Castro and Children, Bonifacio J. Castro & Maria Olaitiman and Children, Bernadita C./Pedro DLG. Manalo and Children, Daniel J./Dorothy M. Castro and Children, Rosita J. Castro and Children, Benjamin J./Vivian Q. Castro and Children, Eddie J./Rosa (Chai) O. Castro and Children, Janet H. King and daughter, Lisa H. King

Godparents: †Francisco/Regina L. Sablan, †Jesus P./Susana T. Mafnas
Special Family Friend: Maridel T. Camacho

Her memories will also be cherished by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, great-grandchildren, and godchildren.

On Thursday, September 15, 2011, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz at 7:30 a.m. to San Roque Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by Interment Service at the Tanapag Public Cemetery

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Thank You

Ginen I Famaguoña yan I Familia

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Contagion
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Matt Damon, Marion Cottilard
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Steven Soderbergh presents this look at what happens when an infectious disease threatens humanity through varied viewpoints from an ensemble cast, including Marion Cotillard, Matt Damon, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Laurence Fishburne, and Kate Winslet. The Informant's Scott Z. Burns provides the script.

Apollo 18
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Gonzalo López-Gallego, director
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
NASA's cancelled trip to the moon in the 1970s is the basis for this found footage-style picture exploring what if the urban legend were true that the mission actually did occur and the proof of extraterrestrial life exists on film. Wanted's Timur Bekmambetov produces the film, with Spanish director Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego taking on helming duties.

★ ★ ★

Shark Night 2D
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Sinqua Walls, Chris Carmack
Horror • Rated PG 13

Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Guy Pearce, Katie Holmes
Horror • Rated R

Conan The Barbarian
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Jason Momoa, Rachel Nichols
Action Fantasy • Rated R

Spy Kids: All The Time In The World
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Jessica Alba, Joel McHale
Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG

Rise of the Planet of the Apes
Friday 4:20 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
James Franco, Freida Pinto
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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Media pause to reflect on Sept. 11 anniversary

NEW YORK (AP)—For all the journalistic firepower gathered to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on Sunday, the small moments captured by cameras resonated most deeply.

A 21-year-old boy regretted that his father wasn't there to help him learn how to drive a car. Young hands grasped at a name etched in a memorial as if they could touch the person himself. A young woman asked a mother no longer there if she is proud of her family.

Live coverage of somber ceremonies memorializing the attack victims dominated television networks on Sunday, the climax of two weeks of attention paid to the historical marker. Newspapers published special sections and websites offered their own content—Yahoo even observing a digital moment of silence.

The television coverage was centered on the annual memorial service at New York's World Trade Center. CNN kept a timeline, occasionally flashing mileposts of what happened 10 years ago at their precise moments: as former President George W. Bush read a letter from Abraham Lincoln to the mother of five men killed in the Civil War, the screen noted that exactly 10 years ago Bush's chief of staff was whispering to his boss that "America is under attack."

"The images still shock, the heartbreak still hurts," CNN's Anderson Cooper said as the network showed pictures from 2001.

Sunday's coverage offered dozens of heart-rending moments, perhaps none more so than when Peter Negron, 21, recalled his father Pete, a project manager for environmental issues for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who died at the World Trade Center. He noted that he tried to teach his brother, aged 2 when their father died, things like throwing a baseball that dad had showed him. He regretted that his father wasn't there to teach him how to drive, or ask a girl out on a date.

Tom Brokaw, who anchored NBC News' coverage 10 years ago and worked as a commentator with Brian Williams on Sunday, briefly struggled for composure after watching a red-eyed Paul Simon sing "The Sounds of Silence."

"Music is such a critical part of these kinds of ceremonies," he said. "It evokes memories, speaks to us in a way that our everyday language cannot."

Most of the networks covered the beginning of the reading of names of World Trade Center victims by family members, but cut away for other things, including ceremonies where planes hit that day at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa.

That made for some discordant moments, such as when ABC's George Stephanopoulos asked Robin Roberts to describe what the screen already had shown.

"Can you just give us a sense of what it is like where the names are being read?" Stephanopoulos asked.

"I'm trying to keep my voice down," Roberts replied. "Everyone is being very respectful in listening to the names being read."

Fox introduced a reporter by injecting an odd sense of competition, saying he had been the first to report that the towers had fallen down—a picture seen live by millions 10 years ago.

Perhaps most powerfully, CBS News stuck with the list of names longer than its rivals, each reader ending with an often heartbreaking personal tribute. Still, the network ended its three-hour coverage without even reaching the halfway point through the alphabetical list.

"It takes a very long time to read 3,000 names," CBS' Scott Pelley said. "It's a reminder of the enormity of what happened."

New York affiliates of the broadcast networks, as has been their tradition, stuck with the readings after network coverage went off the air. Fox and CNN ran lists of victims' names on the bottom of their screens throughout the morning.

The ceremonies gave way to the opening weekend of NFL football, where the anniversary was marked in stadiums across the country. "Taps" was played from Shanksville and Arlington National Cemetery and shown on videoboards in different stadiums.

The New York Mets held a pregame ceremony honoring first responders before Sunday night's home game. A giant flag was unfurled, covering most of the outfield at Citifield, and the stadium lights dimmed for a moment of silence.

The Associated Press provided live video from the memorial service. It also produced a running moment to moment timeline, contrasting what was happening Sunday to what was happening in those moments 10 years earlier.

'Contagion' cleans up box office with first place

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Contagion" infected enough moviegoers to catch the top spot at the box office.

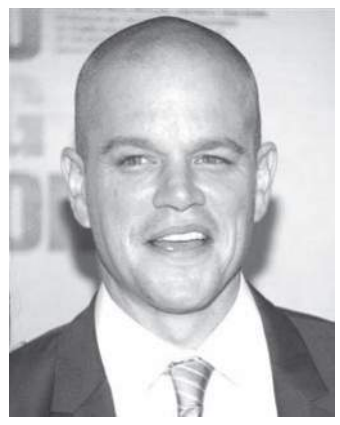
The Warner Bros. pandemic thriller directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring an A-list cast that includes Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow coughed up $23.1 million in its first weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The film's contagious opening marked the beginning of the fall movie season by exceeding the studio's estimates.

"I think Steven Soderbergh made a compelling movie that tapped into that fear that many of us have about illnesses, viruses and pandemics," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. general sales manager. "It's like a train or car accident. You can't look away. You prefer not to think about it, but when it's presented to you, you want to learn more."

Despite the breakout success of "Contagion," it was the lowest grossing weekend of the year so far for the film industry, according to Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. Dergarabedian said that's typical for the weekend after Labor Day and expected business to pick up in the coming weeks as the Academy Awards race begins.

"There are some great titles that are on the way," said Dergarabedian. "I see several promising films—Oscar contenders like `50/50,' `The Descendants' and `Ides of March,' and even potential big moneymakers like `Real Steel.'"



AP

Actor Matt Damon attends the premiere of 'Contagion' at Jazz at Lincoln Center on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011 in New York.

"The Help," the acclaimed DreamWorks Pictures drama distributed by Disney about black Southern maids speaking out during the civil-rights movement, slipped to No. 2 with $8.7 million after three straight weeks at the top, bringing its domestic total to $137 million.

"Warrior," the Lionsgate mixed-martial arts drama starring Tom Hardy and Joel Edgerton, punched up a $5.6 million debut in the No. 3 position. David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate, said he expects "Warrior" to mirror the simmering success of "The Help."

"The film has gotten unbelievable reviews," said Spitz. "The audience reaction we're getting on the movie is consistent. People like the film. It's a slow burn. We think we're going to be in theaters for a long time."

Overseas, the family smash "The Smurfs" continued to dominate, pulling in $14.9 million to pad its international total to $321.2 million and its worldwide haul to $457.2 million. "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" again came in second internationally with $12.5 million, lifting its overseas take to $207.6 million and its worldwide total to $375.4 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Contagion**," $23.1 million. ($2.1 million international.)
2. "**The Help**," $8.7 million.
3. "**Warrior**," $5.6 million.
4. "**The Debt**," $4.9 million. ($1.5 million international.)
5. "**Colombiana**," $4 million.
6. "**Rise of the Planet of the Apes**," $3.8 million. ($12.5 million international.)
7. "**Shark Night 3D**," $3.5 million. ($500,000 international.)
8. "**Apollo 18**," $2.9 million. ($425,000 international.)
9. "**Our Idiot Brother**," $2.7 million.
10. "**Spy Kids: All the Time in the World**," $2.5 million. ($425,000 international.)

■■■

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

1. "**The Smurfs**," $14.9 million.
2. "**Rise of the Planet of the Apes**," $12.5 million.
3. "**Final Destination 5**," $10.8 million.
4. "**Friends with Benefits**," $10.2 million.
5. "**Captain America: The First Avenger**," $8 million.
6. "**Cowboys & Aliens**," $5.5 million.
7. "**Horrible Bosses**," $5.3 million.
8. "**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2**," $3.4 million.
9. "**The Zookeeper**," $3.3. million.
10. "**Crazy, Stupid, Love**," $2.9 million.

'Spartacus' star Whitfield dies of lymphoma at 39

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Andy Whitfield, who played the title role in the hit cable series "Spartacus: Blood and Sand," has died at age 39, according to representatives and family.

Whitfield died Sunday in Sydney, Australia, 18 months after he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, manager Sam Maydew told the Associated Press.

"On a beautiful sunny Sydney spring morning, surrounded by his family, in the arms of his loving wife, our beautiful young warrior Andy Whitfield lost his 18 month battle with lymphoma cancer," Whitfield's wife Vashti said in a statement. "He passed peacefully surrounded by love. Thank you to all his fans whose love and support have help carry him to this point. He will be remembered as the inspiring, courageous and gentle man, father and husband he was."

Andy Whitfield—who was born in Wales and moved to Australia in 1999—was a virtual unknown when he was cast as the legendary Thracian slave in "Spartacus," a role made famous by Kirk Douglas in the 1960 Stanley Kubrick film.

The series proved a breakout hit for the Starz network and made waves with its graphic violence and sexuality.

AP

In this undated file TV publicity image released by Starz, Andy Whitfield portrays Spartacus in the Starz series Spartacus: Blood and Sand.

Whitfield appeared in all 13 episodes of the first season that aired in 2010, and was preparing to shoot the second when he was diagnosed with cancer.

While waiting for Whitfield's treatment and expected recovery, the network produced a six-part prequel, "Spartacus: Gods of the Arena," that aired earlier this year with only a brief voiceover from the actor.

But in January after Whitfield's condition grew worse, the network announced that another Australian actor, Liam McIntyre, would take over the role.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Andy Whitfield," Starz President and CEO Chris Albrecht said in a statement Sunday night. "We were fortunate to have worked with Andy in `Spartacus' and came to know that the man who played a champion on-screen was also a champion in his own life."

Whitfield's previous credits included appearances on the Australian TV shows "Packed to the Rafters" and "McLeod's Daughters."

Charlie Sheen smiles through Comedy Central roast

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Charlie Sheen smiled through a Comedy Central roast as Mike Tyson, William Shatner, actress Kate Walsh and half a dozen comedians riffed on his high-profile year.

Sheen was famously fired from his sitcom "Two and a Half Men" in March after a very public meltdown during which he claimed to be a "rock star from Mars" who has "tiger blood" and "Adonis DNA."

The 46-year-old actor is the subject of the latest roast, which was taped Saturday night at Sony Studios and will air Sept. 19 on Comedy Central.

Sheen took the stage in true rock-star fashion, as rock `n' roll guitarist Slash heralded his introduction. The actor, dressed in a black suit, white shirt and red tie, smiled and laughed as roasters jabbed at his famous family, his notorious taste for drugs and prostitutes and his prime-time firing.

"Charlie's meltdown was so bad, Al Gore's making a documentary about it," quipped comedian Jeffrey Ross, who was dressed as Muammar Gaddafi in a military outfit with fringed epaulets and a sash.

"The only time your kids get to see you is in re-runs," Ross said.

Comedian Jon Lovitz also took a timely swipe at Sheen: "How much (cocaine) can Charlie Sheen do?" he asked. "Enough to kill two and a half men."

AP

Charlie Sheen is seen with Slash at the "Comedy Central Roast of Charlie Sheen" on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011 in Culver City, Calif.

Priceline pitchman Shatner reminded Sheen to "book your next rehab stay through Priceline.com."

Walsh, who is best known for her roles on "Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice," gave standup a shot at the roast. "It's amazing, despite all those years of abusing your lungs, your kidneys and your liver, the only thing you've had removed is your kids," she said to Sheen.

The most bizarre performer was Tyson, who got plenty of laughs despite his almost unintelligible delivery. "I'm the greatest poet alive," he said as he concluded his time on stage. "I will eat your children!"

Comedian Amy Schumer joked, "Is his interpreter here?"

Steve-O of "Jackass" fame was also among the roasters. His big trick was running repeatedly into Tyson's fist, which he did until he reportedly broke his nose.

The comics also took digs at Sheen's former live-in girlfriends, whom he referred to as "the goddesses," and ex-wife Brooke Mueller, who was sitting in the audience Saturday.

After the comedians had their say, roast master Seth MacFarlane introduced the night's honoree as "a man with a big heart, because it's been dangerously enlarged by cocaine use."

Sheen jabbed back at his roasters and poked fun at his image.

Film casts Palin as resentful grudge-holdera

TORONTO (AP)—A documentary about Sarah Palin depicts the Tea Party idol and former vice presidential candidate as a woman with enormous personal charm but merciless vindictiveness.

Director Nick Broomfield's "Sarah Palin: You Betcha!", which is playing at the Toronto International Film Festival, offers a glimpse of the former Alaska governor from interviews with family, including her parents, and former friends and associates.

Palin comes across as a woman known for ruthlessly firing people and holding spiteful grudges, leaving many Alaskans worried to talk about her for fear of reprisals, whether from Palin or her supporters.

The film screened Friday for reporters ahead of its official festival premiere Sunday.

In this image from video image released by the Toronto International Film Festival, director Nick Broomfield poses with a cardboard cut-out of former Republican Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin in a scene from the documentary "Sarah Palin: You Betcha!"

AP

Man who won't pay for seat upgrade is lacking in class

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Your response to "Not Ungrateful in San Diego" (July 13) missed the mark. Her boyfriend of eight months is flying in business class to France, but he's only paying for a coach ticket for her? I was a divorce lawyer for 31 years (now retired), so I know a few things about relationships.

While Claude had no obligation to pay her way to France, once he invited her, he displayed a troubling character flaw. If he was going to pay her way, he should have paid for her to sit with him in business class. Her seat in coach is a warning sign: She'll always be in the back of the plane, the bus or his life. Of course buying business class seats for the two of them is expensive, but if he's going to take her to his family's chateau, he should treat her as an equal—or not do it at all.

PAUL IN SARATOGA, CALIF.

DEAR PAUL: I appreciate your viewpoint, one which is shared by many other readers. The responses to that letter were an interesting mix. My newspaper readers comment:

DEAR ABBY: "Not Ungrateful" is unbelievable! My long-legged husband cannot sit in coach unless he is in an exit row, and those seats aren't always easy to get. Because I'm short, I don't need the extra space and, if I am assigned an exit seat, I gladly give it up to a tall person. That woman will be in France (paid for!) with her boyfriend. I would go in the BAGGAGE compartment for such an opportunity.

HAPPY TO TRADE PLACES

DEAR ABBY: A less-expensive option for long-legged fliers is to buy an extra coach seat. Claude could purchase three seats together. That way he could sit sideways and put items in the central seat. Neither my wife nor I have long legs, but we fly this way for comfort on long flights.

STEPHEN IN TUCSON, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: When Claude offered to treat her to the trip, he put himself in the role of a "host." A host does not treat himself to steak while offering hamburger to his guest. I am accompanying my husband on a business trip. His company will pay for him to fly business class and I will purchase a coach ticket for myself. My husband insists on flying coach with me, saying that a gentleman would never fly in a different class than his wife.

WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER

DEAR ABBY: My husband always sits in business class while I sit in coach when we travel long distances. He has a back problem and I don't. Why spend a lot of money on something so fleeting? We have plenty of time together once we arrive at our destination. I have never thought of myself as subservient—just practical.

ENJOYS LIFE IN COACH

DEAR ABBY: By all means, "Not Ungrateful" should go to France as planned. Her seatmate in coach could be a delightful person—maybe even someone with whom she'd rather spend the rest of her life. Or, he could be someone she'll meet in France. Life's little twists and turns can be strange and mysterious, but they lead us to our destiny.

BETTIE IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR ABBY: Claude wouldn't know chivalry if it bit him in the face. Men usually try to put their best foot forward in the beginning of a relationship. If this is his best foot, "Not Ungrateful" might want to pass on the trip and HIM altogether.

Claude is a buffoon to expect his girlfriend to be grateful for something he himself refuses to abide by because "it's uncomfortable." Perhaps he should tie her hair into two pigtails and force her to fly in the cargo hold as a cocker spaniel instead.

WOOF!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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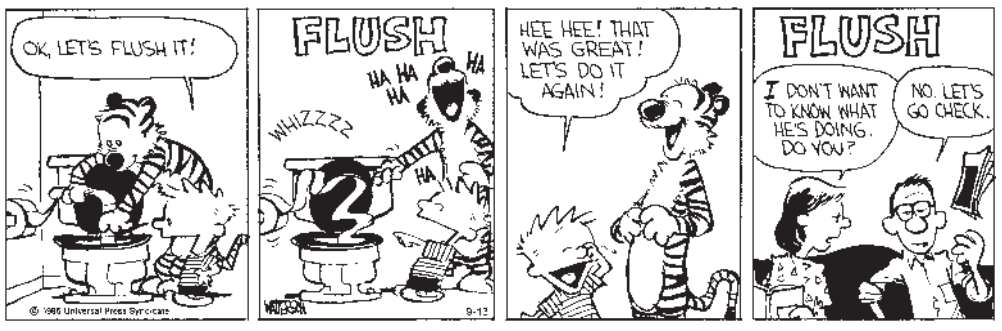
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

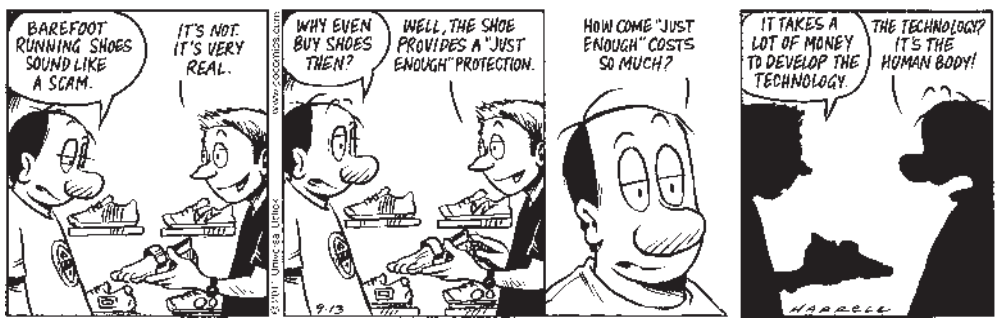


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BAREFOOT RUNNING SHOES SOUND LIKE A SCAM.
IT'S NOT. IT'S VERY REAL.
WHY EVEN BUY SHOES THEN?
WELL, THE SHOE PROVIDES A "JUST ENOUGH" PROTECTION.
HOW COME "JUST ENOUGH" COSTS SO MUCH?
IT TAKES A LOT OF MONEY TO DEVELOP THE TECHNOLOGY.
THE TECHNOLOGY? IT'S THE HUMAN BODY!
HARRELL
9/13
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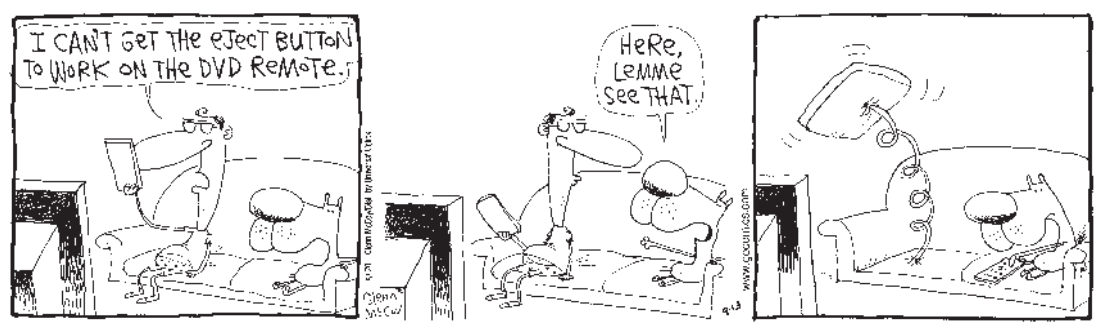
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Swedish pop quartet
5 Distant
8 Hairless
12 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
13 Brazilian resort city
14 Met melody
15 Big name in appliances
17 Ponce de —
18 34-Down's mate
19 Ex-GI
20 Entry form
21 Marry
22 Dine
23 Actor Fonda
26 Sanit workers' job
30 Hertz rival
31 Transmit electronically
32 Shakespeare villain
33 Ruin
35 Build a wing
36 Peace (Lat.)
37 Mel of Coopers-town
38 "— Buddies"
41 Pair
42 Insult (Sl.)
45 Opposed
46 Locate precisely
48 Tilt
49 Consumed
50 Walk the floor
51 Shoppers' mecca
52 Neither mate
53 Cabbage salad

DOWN
1 Rue the run
2 Huff and puff
3 — noire
4 Pump up the volume
5 Cooked in a skillet
6 "— Misbehavin'"
7 Decay
8 Pen type
9 Vicinity
10 MGM mascot
11 Unpleasantly moist
16 Finished
20 Vagrant
21 Cadets' place
22 Gender
23 Cushion
24 Leading lady?
25 "— the season ..."
26 Shaft of light
27 Moving truck
28 Time of your life?
29 Bagel topper
31 "The Simpsons" network
34 See 18-Across
35 On
37 Title holder
38 Soothing ointment
39 Draftable
40 Celebrity
41 One of the Jackson 5
42 Rotary phone feature
43 Erstwhile Peruvian
44 Ratatouille, e.g.
46 Zero-star review
47 Chances, for short

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	R	G			P	I	C		N	A	T	O
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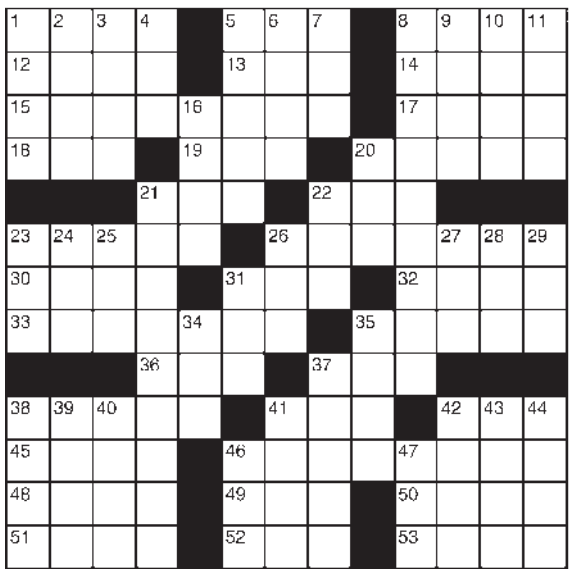
Yesterday's answer 9-13



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Savage, 31; Tyler Perry, 42; Jean Smart, 60; Jacqueline Bisset, 67.

Happy Birthday: Review what you have to offer and plan to expand your skills and diversify. Strive for perfection and make sure that what you have to offer is in demand. Working with an institution or government agency will pay off. Altering your home to suit the projects you want to pursue will ensure that you get the most out of time spent working to reach your goals. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 29, 33, 38, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Avoid situations that will add to your anxious mood. Relax and look at whatever situation you face practically. Once you decipher what's required, work toward getting the best end result. You will advance if you are precise and reasonable. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can make headway at home and work if you push to be more productive. Your efforts will be impressive and lead to advancement, gratitude and rewards. Your concern and sensible approach confirm how valuable and reliable you are. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take action if you have concern. Doing your best to help those less fortunate will change the way you think. Difficulties with friends or while networking will occur if you share too much personal information. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Strive for perfection and choose your words wisely. With the right mix of mental and physical reaction, you will accomplish all you set out to do. Do something special for the people you love. Good fortune will come from helping others. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Opportunity is apparent, but don't feel that you have to do things on a grand scale. Simple and moderate can be just as effective in bringing a higher profit personally, professionally or financially. Trying something new will feed your imagination. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Opportunities are apparent. Travel, communicate and mull over possibilities with peers and you will develop something worthwhile. Networking and socializing will result in potential partnerships that can lead to profits, if your motives are practical. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A snap judgment will lead to emotional problems. Secrets must be kept for now and emphasis must be put on protecting your money, possessions and reputation. Avoid getting backed into a corner. Less said, less interference. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Concentrate on personal and professional strategy. Patience will be the key to achieving your goals. Your secretive nature will drum up curiosity and protect you from having your game plan disrupted by someone who is jealous or in competition with you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll find it difficult to stay out of trouble. You may want to fill your life with adventure, but keeping the peace and avoiding controversial situations is a must for now. Stick close to home and busy yourself with domestic changes. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Enjoy the benefits of organizations you belong to. Use whatever you can to improve your financial position. Consider opportunities that pertain to family and changes that will lower overhead. Love is on the rise and romance should be scheduled. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Focus on what you can do to stabilize your life mentally, physically or financially. Set your course carefully to make the most out of what you have to work with. Do what's best for you in a timely fashion. Past experience will play an important role. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Personal and professional maneuvers will be necessary to stay in control at home and at work. Take on more responsibility if it will bring you the clout to get things done your way. A partnership will weigh heavily on the decisions you make. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, dynamic and determined. You will take on tasks that others shy away from.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2		5			
	4	2				1	7	
	5		1		3		4	
6		5				9		4
				8				
4		7				6		8
	9		8		2		1	
	7	8				5	6	
			7		6			

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	7	5	6	9	2	3	8
8	5	6	3	2	4	7	1	9
3	9	2	8	7	1	5	6	4
9	1	5	2	4	3	6	8	7
6	8	4	7	9	5	3	2	1
7	2	3	6	1	8	9	4	5
2	3	1	4	5	7	8	9	6
5	6	9	1	8	2	4	7	3
4	7	8	9	3	6	1	5	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BELLY LAUGHS **Solution: 8 letters**

D	E	E	P	T	D	Y	E	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y
E	I	V	B	(N)	S	F	J	C	T	I	R	I	P	S
L	S	M	I	R	(I)	O	U	O	N	H	U	A	O	N
I	P	M	P	L	I	(O)	O	N	K	A	R	S	S	I
G	Y	L	I	L	A	G	(J)	B	N	E	D	U	I	C
H	A	O	E	R	E	M	H	O	H	Y	S	O	T	K
T	L	U	J	H	K	S	N	T	H	R	O	I	I	E
F	P	D	U	N	E	S	N	I	E	M	S	T	V	R
U	G	T	O	N	E	E	L	E	R	N	T	C	E	L
L	N	N	S	L	M	A	N	A	M	G	N	E	S	A
E	I	E	G	E	R	E	W	D	U	O	E	F	Y	R
E	L	G	S	I	R	O	A	R	N	N	T	N	M	U
L	I	U	O	G	S	U	N	N	Y	U	N	I	B	T
G	M	U	Y	C	H	U	C	K	L	E	O	A	O	A
A	S	U	O	I	G	A	T	N	O	C	C	S	L	N

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Alive, Amusement, Annual, Boost, Brighten, Chuckle, Contagious, Content, Dance, Deep, Delightful, Dimples, Emotion, Energy, Enjoy, Funny, Giggle, Glee, Goofy, Grin, Healthy, Help, Hilarious, Infectious, Join, Jokes, Loud, Mind, Natural, Play, Positive, Roar, Sense, Sign, Smiling, Smirks, Snicker, Sound, Spirit, Sunny, Symbol, Therapy, Tone, Warm

Yesterday's Answer: Painting

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JVA No. 11-056

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Closing Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Legal Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the In-House Legal Counsel. Perform secretarial duties utilizing legal terminology, procedures, and documents. Prepare legal papers and correspondence, such as letters, summonses, complaints, motions, and subpoenas. Prepare and organize for court hearings by organizing documents and exhibits. May also assist with legal research, including gathering information on CNMI statutes, decisions, and administrative regulations. File legal papers on line on Lexis for state court and Pacer for federal court. Post documents to website. Email, Mail, fax, or arrange for delivery of legal correspondence. Receive and place telephone calls. Organize and maintain law libraries, documents, and case files. Schedule, make appointments and keep calendars. Make photocopies or electronic scans of correspondence, documents, and other printed matter. Assist attorney in collecting information such as employment and other records, and keep all such information confidential. Draft and type office memos. Serve as a liaison between assigned department and other departments and organizations.

Location: CUC Legal Office, Saipan.
Salary: $35,163 to $49,242; Un-classified, Un-graded.
Position: One.
Contract: Not Contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE with eight years of proven, professional administrative support for an attorney or judge; or, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, or a related field with three years of legal assistance experience. Knowledge of: administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, excel, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology; knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar; knowledge of laws, legal codes, court procedures, precedents, government regulations, executive orders, agency rules, and the democratic political process. Skill in: Must be able to manage one's own time and the time of others, including keeping calendars to remind others of project deadlines; meeting critical deadlines for filing court documents; demonstrating attention to detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks; using computers and related software applications, including Word, Adobe, and Excel; demonstrating skill in communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to read a numerical spreadsheet.

Public Law 17-36 restricts CUC in hiring foreign national workers. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, or otherwise eligible to work in the U.S. and specifically the CNMI without needing sponsorship by CUC for a U.S. work visa.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.
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Saipan Tribune

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Late FG leads Jets to win over Cowboys

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Rex Ryan wanted this one badly for the New York area—and his Jets delivered.

But it was far from easy.

Nick Folk kicked a 50-yard field goal with 27 seconds left, giving the Jets a 27-24 comeback victory over the Dallas Cowboys in the final game of the NFL's first full Sunday with the commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks as an emotional backdrop.

With the game tied at 24, the Cowboys had a chance for a winning drive with 59 seconds left, but Tony Romo was intercepted on the first play by Darrelle Revis, who returned it 20 yards to Dallas' 34. Four plays later, Folk kicked the go-ahead field goal against his former team.

The Jets tied it with 5 minutes left when Isaiah Trufant, promoted from the practice squad Saturday, ran in a blocked punt from 18 yards for a touchdown. Joe McKnight charged up the middle unblocked and got his hands on Mat McBriar's kick, which bounced right into Trufant's hands.

It appeared the Cowboys were going to take a two-touchdown lead midway through the fourth quarter when Jason Witten's 64-yard catch put the ball at the Jets 3. Three plays later, Tony Romo scrambled, then tried to run it in up the middle, but was sacked by Mike DeVito. The quarterback lost the ball - and it was recovered by nose tackle Sione Pouha.

The Jets turned the ball over a few minutes later when a blitzing Danny McCray sacked Mark Sanchez, hitting him from behind and knocking the ball loose. But the Cowboys couldn't take advantage when they had two penalties and were forced to punt - the play that swung the momentum in the Jets' favor.

Early in the week, Ryan said he felt a responsibility to the New York area to win on opening night, especially with the team honoring the victims of the attacks and their families before the game and at halftime. He also wanted to get the better of his twin brother, Rob, with their father Buddy in the crowd.

Sanchez was 26 of 44 for 335 yards and touchdown tosses to Dustin Keller and Plaxico Burress, who played in a regular-season game for the first time in nearly three years. He last played in 2008 for the Giants before he spent 20 months in prison on a gun charge.

The Jets also played a clean game with no penalties, compared to seven for the Cowboys, and spoiled Jason Garrett's debut as Dallas' full-time coach after he went 5-3 in an interim role last season.

A few plays after putting a bone-crunching hit on Cowboys defensive back Michael Jenkins while blocking on a 28-yard catch by Santonio Holmes, Burress had a 26-yard catch as he spun into the end zone to make it 24-17 with 11:56 left. The play was reviewed by officials and upheld.

Burress put both arms out with the ball in one hand, yelled to the crowd in celebration and then gave the ball to his 4-year-old son Elijah in the stands.

Romo was 23 of 36 for 342 yards and two touchdowns, picking on Antonio Cromartie on both to help give Dallas a 24-10 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Romo threw for a 3-yard touchdown to Dez Bryant on the Cowboys' opening drive of the game. Miles Austin also outwrestled Cromartie for a 36-yard TD in the third period, and it appeared Romo's return after missing the final 10 games of last season with a broken left collarbone was going well - until it all fell apart in the fourth quarter.

Witten finished with six catches for 110 yards, Austin had five for 90, and Bryant caught three passes for 71 yards.

New York responded after Austin's score with a 33-yard pass to Jeff Cumberland that sparked a 64-yard drive. Folk capped it with a 34-yard field goal that made it 17-10.

AP

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Miles Austin, left, catches a 36-yard touchdown pass while covered by New York Jets defensive back Antonio Cromartie during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Texans 34, Colts 7

In Houston, The Indianapolis Colts were lost without Peyton Manning on Sunday.

Matt Schaub threw for 220 yards and a touchdown, Ben Tate rushed for 116 yards and another score in relief of injured Arian Foster, and the Texans dominated Kerry Collins, Manning's replacement, in a 34-7 victory.

The Texans looked like they're finally ready to take over the AFC South.

Manning, the four-time MVP, didn't travel with the team to Houston as he recovers from his third neck surgery in the past 19 months. His streak of 227 consecutive starts, including playoffs, came to an end.

Ravens 35, Steelers 7

In Baltimore, Joe Flacco threw three touchdown passes, Haloti Ngata led an inspired defense that forced a team-record seven turnovers, and Baltimore easily beat the defending AFC champions.

Ray Rice ran for 107 yards and scored twice for the Ravens, who bolted to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter and never let up against their bitter rivals. It was a rematch of a second-round playoff matchup last January, when the Steelers rallied to beat Baltimore 31-24.

Bears 30, Falcons 12

In Chicago, Brian Urlacher had an interception and returned a fumble for a touchdown, Jay Cutler threw for 312 yards and two scores and Chicago sacked Atlanta's Matt Ryan five times.

In a matchup of reigning division champions, Urlacher picked off Ryan to set up an early 56-yard TD catch by Matt Forte, and in the third quarter the linebacker picked up a fumble by Ryan and scored from 12 yards to make it 30-6.

Eagles 31, Rams 13

In. St. Louis, Michael Vick rushed for 98 yards, LeSean McCoy scored twice and DeSean Jackson topped 100 yards receiving as Philadelphia opened its self-proclaimed Super Bowl drive with a big win.

The Eagles had 239 yards rushing and were 8 for 11 on third downs. The defense applied constant pressure and piled up five sacks, two by Justin Babin. Darryl Tapp forced a fumble by Sam Bradford(notes) that led to a 56-yard touchdown return by Juqua Parker.

Bills 41, Chiefs 7

In Kansas City, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw four touchdown passes, two of them to journeyman tight end Scott Chandler, and Buffalo romped to victory.

Fitzpatrick finished with 208 yards passing for the Bills, who hadn't score 40 points in an opener since a 40-7 victory over the Los Angeles Rams on Sept. 6, 1992.

Fred Jackson added 112 yards rushing for Buffalo.

Matt Cassel threw for 119 yards with a touchdown and interception for Kansas City.

Lions 27, Buccaneers 20

In Tampa Bay, Matthew Stafford threw for 305 yards and three touchdowns to help Detroit to its fifth consecutive victory dating to the final month of the 2010 season.

Stafford completed 24 of 33 passes, including TD throws of 36 and 1 yards to Calvin Johnson and 11 yards to Tony Scheffler. The only interception he threw glanced off the hands of intended receiver Will Heller and was returned 28 yards by Aqib Tali for the only touchdown Tampa Bay managed until Josh Freeman threw a 5-yard scoring pass to Mike Williams with less than two minutes to go.

Redskins 28, Giants 14

In Landover, Rex Grossman completed 21 of 34 passes for 305 yards and two touchdowns for Washington.

Making his first Week 1 start since 2007, Grossman justified—at least for a week—coach Mike Shanahan's decision to go with the veteran over John Beck after a quarterback competition that lasted the entire preseason.

Grossman found Anthony Armstrong for an 18-yard completion that set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Tim Hightower. Grossman later hit Armstrong for a 6-yard score, and first-round draft pick Ryan Kerrigan swung the momentum in the second half by returning an interception for a touchdown.

Cardinals 28, Panthers 21

In Glendale, Cam Newton's NFL debut was as magnificent as they come, except for the outcome. Instead, another rookie scored the game winner.

Patrick Peterson returned a punt 89 yards for the go-ahead touchdown and Arizona escaped with a win.

Newton, the No. 1 draft pick, completed 24 of 37 passes for 422 yards and two touchdowns with one interception, the first rookie to throw for more than 400 yards in his NFL opener.

49ers 33, Seahawks 17

In San Francisco, Ted Ginn Jr. returned a kickoff and a punt for touchdowns in a minute's span late in the fourth quarter, and San Francisco gave Jim Harbaugh a win in his much-hyped NFL debut and renewed coaching rivalry with Pete Carroll.

Ginn ran a kickoff back 102 yards moments after the defending NFC West champion Seahawks had closed within 19-17. It was the second-longest kick return at home and fourth-longest in team history.

The 49ers' Alex Smith was 15 for 20 for 124 yards and ran for a 1-yard TD. David Akers kicked four field goals in his first game with San Francisco.

Chargers 24, Vikings 17

In San Diego, Fullback Mike Tolbert's third touchdown, a 19-yard pass from Philip Rivers with 5:01 to play, lifted San Diego over Adrian Peterson and Minnesota.

Rivers rolled left and waited for Tolbert to get open inside the 5-yard line, then lobbed the winning pass. Rivers completed 33 of 48 passes for 335 yards and was intercepted twice. Tolbert also scored on a 7-yard run and had a 1-yard TD catch.

Bengals 27, Browns 17

In Cleveland, A.J. Green caught Cleveland's defense napping for his first career catch, a 41-yard touchdown from backup quarterback Bruce Gradkowski as Cincinnati spoiled a sloppy debut by Cleveland in coach Pat Shurmur's debut.

Green was left uncovered by the Browns, who were slow coming out of the huddle. All Gradkowski, on in relief of injured rookie Andy Dalton, had to do was lob the ball to Green. The speedy wideout did the rest, scoring with 4:31 left to shock the Browns and their fans, who watched Cleveland fall to 1-12 in season openers since 1999.

Jaguars 16, Titans 14

In Florida, Maurice Jones-Drew scored in his return from knee surgery, and Jacksonville used a flawless start and some clutch plays to hang on for the win.

Titans star Chris Johnson, who joined the team a little more than a week ago following a holdout, was pretty much a nonfactor. Johnson ran nine times for 24 yards and caught six passes for 25 yards.

Tennessee made it close with a pair of second-half TD passes from Matt Hasselbeck to Kenny Britt. The Titans still had a shot, but Dwight Lowery intercepted Hasselbeck's deep pass.

Brewers end skid, rally past Phillies, 3-2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Ryan Braun singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh and the slumping Milwaukee Brewers rallied for a much-needed 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday that snapped their skid at five.

Trailing 2-1, Milwaukee strung together three consecutive hits with two out in the seventh to keep its dwindling NL Central lead at six with 14 games left.

The Phillies could have clinched a playoff spot with a win and a St. Louis loss. The Cardinals beat the Braves 6-3.

Brewers starter Yovani Gallardo (16-10) matched a career high with 12 strikeouts over seven innings. John Axford worked the ninth for his 42nd save.

Shane Victorino and Ryan Howard homered in the sixth for the Phillies, who had won six straight. Vance Worley (11-2) got the loss.

Cardinals 6, Braves 3

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina had three hits, including a three-run double, and the Cardinals moved back into the playoff picture by completing a three-game sweep of the slumping Braves.

The Cardinals pulled within 4 1/2 games of NL wild card-leading Atlanta. They have 16 games left and open a three-game set in Pittsburgh on Monday. The Braves start a three-game series with the Marlins on Monday and have 15 games remaining.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Nick Hundley homered and the Padres snapped the Diamondbacks' franchise-record home winning streak at 15 games.

Hundley, Jesus Guzman and James Darnell had two RBIs apiece for the Padres, who ended a three-game losing streak and won for just the second time in seven games.

Giants 8, Dodgers 1

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner won his fourth straight start, Pablo Sandoval doubled home the go-ahead run in the fifth inning and San Francisco avoided a three-game sweep.

Bumgarner (11-12) struck out eight and allowed three hits in five innings, matching the longest winning streak of his career and improving to 8-3 with a 2.73 ERA since June 26.

Nationals 8, Astros 2

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg allowed one run over three innings in his second start back from Tommy John surgery, and the Nationals hit three consecutive home runs.

Strasburg didn't display the same efficiency he did in his return Tuesday. The right-hander needed 31 pitches to get out of the first inning, although he settled down and finished with six straight outs. He allowed three hits and struck out four in his 57-pitch outing.

Rockies 4, Reds 1

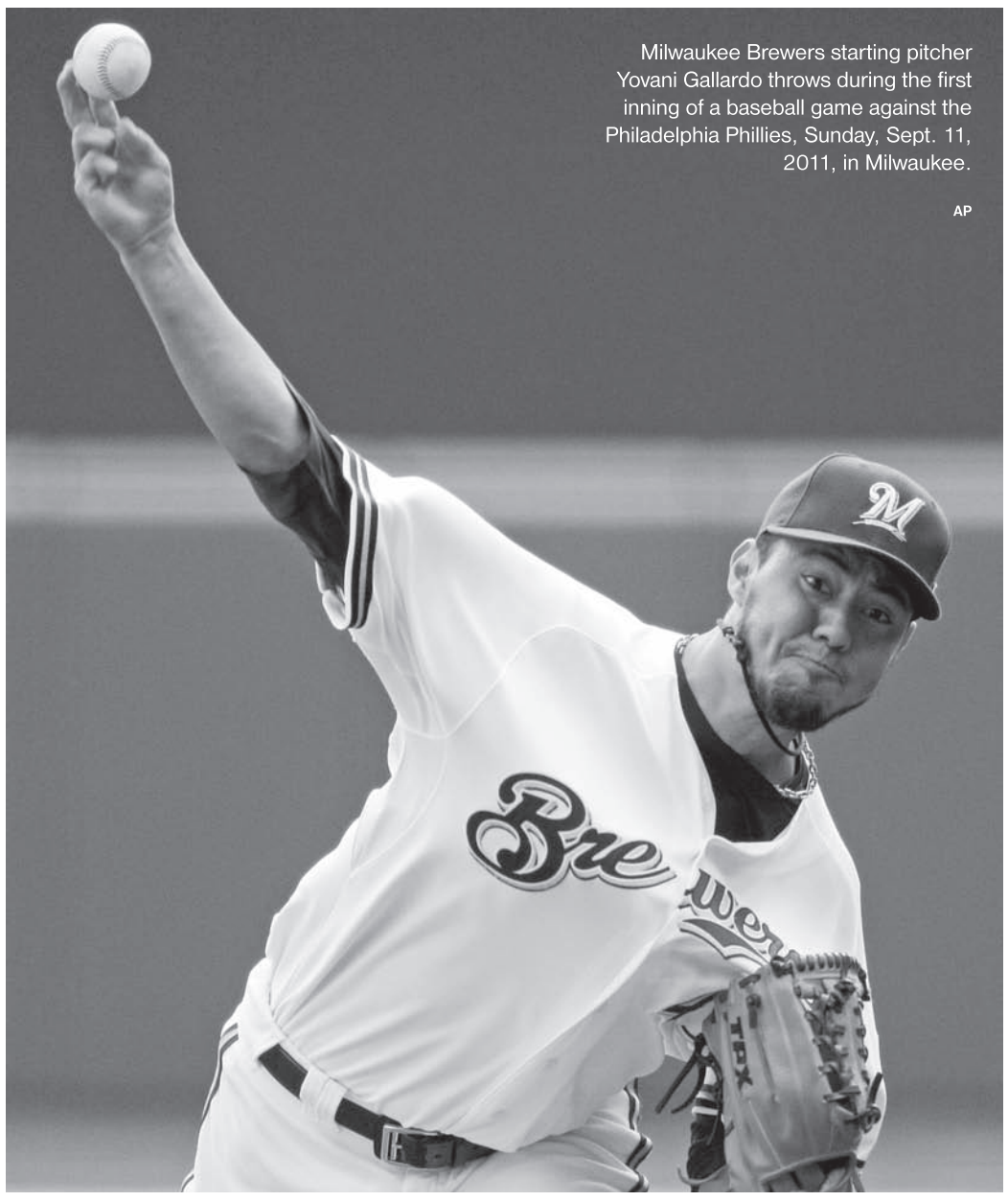
In Denver, prized prospect Drew Pomeranz threw five shutout innings in his major league debut and Ty Wigginton homered for Colorado.

Pomeranz (1-0) was a key piece in the deal that sent ace Ubaldo Jimenez to Cleveland at the trade deadline. He showed why the Rockies coveted him, allowing just two singles.

Marlins 4, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Javier Vazquez added to his last-season surge by pitching six scoreless innings, helping the Marlins complete a season sweep of the Pirates.

Vazquez struck out seven, allowed three hits and walked two while improving to 4-2 with a 1.95 ERA in his last nine starts.



Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher Yovani Gallardo throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, in Milwaukee.

AP

Rays 9, Red Sox 1

In St. Petersburgh, James Shields came within two outs of his 12th complete game this season, B.J. Upton hit his first grand slam and the Tampa Bay Rays routed the fading Boston Red Sox 9-1 on Sunday.

Tampa Bay moved within 3 1/2 games of the AL wild card leaders, sweeping the three-game series to go a season-high 17 games over .500 at 81-64.

Yankees 6, Angels 5

In California, Robinson Cano and Curtis Granderson homered, New York scored two key runs when Peter Bourjos dropped a fly ball in the seventh inning, and the Yankees beat Los Angeles to snap a four-game skid.

Derek Jeter had two hits and scored the go-ahead run for the Yankees, who moved 3 1/2 games ahead of slumping Boston in the AL East.

Rangers 8, Athletics 1

In Texas, Wilson scattered five hits over eight shutout innings, Adrian Beltr homered twice to reach 301 for his career and Texas eliminated Oakland from playoff contention.

Wilson (16-6) struck out 11 and walked one, following up on his first career shutout—an 8-0 win at Tampa Bay last Tuesday.

Wilson set a career high for victories, but manager Ron Washington pulled him after the left-hander threw 111 pitches.

Tigers 2, Twins 1

In Detroit, Doug Fister pitched seven scoreless innings in another terrific start for Detroit and Jose Valverde set a team record with his 43rd save in a win over Minnesota.

The AL Central-leading Tigers have won nine straight for the first time since 1984, when Detroit won the World Series.

Fister (8-13) allowed three hits, struck out five and walked two. Joaquin Benoit pitched the eighth, and Valverde allowed a run in the ninth but held on for his 43rd save in 43 chances.

Indians 7, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Ubaldo Jimenez threw six effective innings and Luis Valbuena homered in Cleveland's victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Valbuena also singled twice and scored two runs as the Indians collected 14 hits. Trevor Crowe had three singles and Carlos Santana added a two-run double.

Jimenez (3-2) issued five walks, but allowed just two runs and three hits.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 5

In Toronto, converted pitcher Adam Loewen hit his first major league home run against his original team to help Toronto beat Baltimore.

Jose Bautista drove in the tiebreaking run with a seventh-inning sacrifice fly, sending Baltimore to its 29th loss in the last 34 games in Toronto dating to June 2008.

Royals 2, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Alex Gordon hit a pair of RBI doubles and four Kansas City pitchers combined to hold Seattle to six hits.

Rookie left-hander Everett Teaford (1-0) pitched five scoreless innings, allowing three hits and striking out five to pick up his first big league victory in his first career start after 23 relief appearances.

Blake Wood took over in the seventh and tossed two hitless innings. Greg Holland gave up a two-out RBI double to Ichiro Suzuki in the eighth.

Nadal: Djokovic has psychological edge

NEW YORK (AP)—When Novak Djokovic faced Rafael Nadal in the 2010 U.S. Open final, the guy everyone calls "Rafa" solidified his standing atop the tennis world by earning third Grand Slam title of the season.

Now it's "Nole" who gets a chance to add to his own remarkable run: A victory over Nadal in the title match at Flushing Meadows on Monday would make Djokovic 64-2 in 2011 with 10 titles, including three at majors.

It also would make Djokovic 6-0 against Nadal this season.

Oh, how their rivalry has changed in the short span of 12 months.

"Well, it's obvious that this is the best year of my career, by far. The confidence level that is very high at this moment for me helps me … go for the shots that I maybe in some situations wouldn't; that I wasn't going for … in the past couple years," Djokovic said.

"But it's all, I think, a process of learning and getting experience and maturing as a player, as a person," he added after coming back from two sets down and erasing two match points to beat Roger Federer in the semifinals Saturday.

At the end of 2010, Nadal led Djokovic 16-7 in head-to-head matches, including 5-0 in tournament finals and 5-0 in Grand Slam meetings.

It's been a whole different story of late.

Heading into Monday—the fourth year in a row the U.S. Open has stretched into an extra day because of rain—Djokovic is 5-0 against Nadal in 2011. Those matches all were in finals, including on hard courts at Indian Wells, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla., on clay at Madrid and Rome, and on grass at Wimbledon.

After that latest setback, in their only Grand Slam encounter of the season, Nadal acknowledged that Djokovic has gained a psychological edge over him— similar to the sort of hold over Federer that Nadal appeared to gain over the years.

And Nadal sounded a similar note when looking ahead to taking on Djokovic again in the U.S. Open final.

"I am not very happy about my mental performance against him this year. That's true, no? Because for moments I didn't believe really 100 percent (in) victory. That's (a) big problem. Because when that's happening, you have your chances less, much less than if you believe," Nadal said after eliminating Andy Murray in the semifinals. "So that was (a) problem, and that's what I gonna try to change for Monday."

Nadal was asked whether he'd employ a new strategy against Djokovic this time.

"I think I'm going to do serve and volley," he cracked, knowing full well — as does everyone else—that he will stick to the beat-'em-from-the-baseline tactics that have carried the 25-year-old Spaniard to 10 major trophies and a career Grand Slam.

A day after winning Wimbledon for his third Grand Slam title—and No. 2 this year, along with the Australian Open—Djokovic rose one spot in the rankings to No. 1.

That dropped Nadal to No. 2, and Monday's match will be the first U.S. Open final between men ranked 1-2 since No. 2 Pete Sampras beat No. 1 Andre Agassi in 1995. For all of their Grand Slam finals against each other, Nadal and Federer never have played in any round at Flushing Meadows.

Federer appeared set to get to his seventh U.S. Open final in eight years, leading 5-3, 40-15 in the fifth set against Djokovic on Saturday. But Djokovic ripped a cross-court return winner to save the first, then fended off a serve into his body on the second and eventually took that point, too.

That began a run of four consecutive games for Djokovic, allowing him to complete a massive comeback and reach his third final in New York. The 24-year-old Serb lost to Federer in 2007, then Nadal in 2010.

"What he does really well this year—he front-runs really well," Federer said afterward. "And he started playing great. It was hard to counter his playing."

That's been the case for pretty much everyone who's tried to deal with Djokovic during what, by any measure, is one of the greatest seasons in the history of tennis.

Or any sport, for that matter.

"Probably his movements are better than before. He's having less mistakes than before. … He's playing with high confidence," Nadal said. "He's great to keep his mind fresh in important moments, fight every point. He's doing everything fantastic."

Precisely the sort of thing people were saying about Nadal a year ago.

Sherwin Williams knocks out Joeten Superstore

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Sherwin Williams eliminated Joeten Superstore after posting a 81-73 victory in their playoff game in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Joeten led at the start of the playoff match, but lost the game in the fourth due to foul troubles, while Sherwin Williams capitalized on the opportunity, hitting one free throw after another.

Mike Umali paced Joeten with six points for an early 20-17 lead in the opening 10 minutes. Then the match went back and forth until it was knotted at the half, 32-all. Sherwin Williams' Dado Vistal led the charge with seven points in the second quarter.

After the pause, Sherwin knocked down two early threes and managed a slim 54-52 edge heading into the final period. Sherwin Williams also hit eight free throws in the third quarter.

Joeten continued its physical play causing George Cruz and Sam Fernandez to foul out in the fourth quarter. Sherwin Williams benefited from these infractions, as they sank 16 charities in the fourth period to secure a sound victory.

Jun Tabora delivered 10 points in the clutch, six came from the stripe, and finished with 24, while Vistal added 23. Rodney Sacramento scrambled for 17 in the defeat.

Joeten committed 29 fouls in the contest compared to Sherwin Williams' 17. Sherwin cashed in on 23 points from the stripe, while Joeten managed only 10.

Sherwin Williams 81 – Tabora 24, Vistal 23, Mallari 12, Garon 10, Tobias 9, Dayrit 3.

Joeten Superstore 73 – Sacramento 17, Devero 13, Umali 12, Camacho 10, S. Fernandez 6, Casabuena 5, Cruz 4, R. Fernandez 2, Sablan 2, Tankoy 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 32-32, 54-52, 81-73.

Sonics hold off Rollers 1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics outlasted Rollers 1, 42-39, in their U19 game in the 2011 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The win improved the Sonics' record to 4-1, while the Rollers dropped to a 1-4 mark.

Sonics' Ardrian Palacios and Jimmy Tudela scored four points apiece to give their team a 10-6 edge after the first period,

Sonics spread the ball around in the second quarter to stretch the lead at halftime, 21-14. Melvin Cadiang drained a late three to make it a three-possession margin for the Sonics in the period.

Both teams buckled down on defense after the break, but the Sonics maintained a 27-18 advantage heading into the final canto.

Rollers 1 rallied back at crunch time with six players chipping in on the effort, but the Sonics escaped and kept their winning streak intact.

Palacios led the Sonics with eight points, while Rollers 1's Jon Cenir finished with a game-high 11 on the short end.

Action in the Rotary caging continues tomorrow with Hi-5 taking on Rollers 2 at 5pm. The two teams hold similar 1-2 slates.

Sonics 42 – Palacios 8, Tudela 6, Ecalnea 6, Cadiang 6, Aranda 5, Caro 4, Del Rosario 4, Villanueva 3.

Rollers 1 39 – Cenir 11, Darag 8, Dela Rosa 6, DL Guerrero 5, Saurez 2, Nakayama 2, Kwon 2, Norita 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-6, 21-14, 27-18, 42-39.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Sonics' Adrian Palacios, seen in this file photo pulling up for a shot, helped his team win over Rollers 1 in the U19 division game in the Rotary caging last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

STOSUR

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And, for the second time in three years, Williams did not leave Flushing Meadows quietly.

This time, the drama began when Williams, down a set and facing break point in the first game of the second, flushed a forehand deep to Stosur's backhand side and screamed out `C'mon!' - figuring she had hit a shot that Stosur wouldn't reach. But Stosur stretched out and got a racket on the ball and the umpire, Eva Asderaki, called Williams for a hindrance, awarding the point, and thus the game, to Stosur.

What followed was nowhere near as menacing as 2009, when Williams berated and brandished her racket at a referee who called a foot fault in her semifinal against Kim Clijsters.

But memorable nonetheless.

Williams went over to talk to Asderaki, saying, "I'm not giving her that game," then, "I promise you, that's not cool. That's totally not cool."

The fans, sitting on their hands as they watched an unexpected first-set flattening of the American, got riled up and so did Williams, breaking Stosur's serve on the next game, then holding her own serve for a 2-1 lead.

But on the next changeover, Williams took things up again with Asderaki and she made it personal.

"You're out of control," she said. "You're a hater, and you're just unattractive inside."

Then, a few moments later: "You're out of control." And, "Really, don't even look at me."

And as quickly as she had gained the momentum and the support of the crowd, they were gone, leaving Williams to explain and deflect - and wait to hear if there will be further consequences.

Asderaki issued a code violation warning for verbal abuse and the U.S. Tennis Association said officials would decide Monday whether Williams would be fined.

"I don't even remember what I said," Williams said. "It was just so intense out there. It's the final for me, and I was just ... I guess I'll see it on YouTube."

What she'll also see, if she watches long enough, is a rare example of a player who doesn't feel beaten before she even walks onto the court against Williams.

That's Stosur, a one-time doubles specialist, who has revamped her game over the past several years and moved her way into the top 10 in singles.

She became the first Australian woman to win a major championship since Evonne Goolagong Cawley at Wimbledon in 1980. Stosur received a text from the former player that read: "Twinkletoes, you finally have got what you deserved."

ROGOLIFOI

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Guam after pulling off an 8-4 triumph in the finals of the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia last Friday.

"We're the best in the Pacific. Nobody can doubt that now," Rogolifoi said when asked about the team's success in New Caledonia.

"It's worth the trip. We almost did not make it to New Caledonia, but now we're back with the gold medal. All the hard work the players and officials put in for the past few months paid off. This victory was a product of the team's commitment and dedication," Igitol added.

Igitol was talking of how the CNMI Baseball Team struggled for funds for the Games. The challenges continued even when they were already in New Caledonia, as the CNMI sluggers lost back-to-back games (against Guam, 5-6, and New Caledonia, 2-3) after winning over Palau, 1-0. Rogolifoi's wards then recovered with victories over American Samoa and Fiji to make it to the playoffs. In the Final Four, the CNMI had to beat New Caledonia, 11-5, and Palau, 8-0, to advance to the finals.

"The boys just showed a lot of heart in the playoffs, especially Joshua Jones, who is our Ironman. This win vindicated us from that loss against Palau in the 2010 Micronesian Games," Rogolifoi said.

Jones closed out for the CNMI in the last three games, giving only one run against Guam and shutting out Palau. He pitched 31 innings in the Pacific Games and allowed less than 10 hits with more than 30 strikeouts.

"I just did what coach told me to do—throw those strikes and be confident and trust my teammates. I was not scared against Guam, as I beat them twice in Palau last year. It was hard to play three straight games, but I am happy I survived," said Jones, who was greeted by her mother, Julie. "I'm so proud of him, as all the hard work in those practices for two months paid off. Josh is a quiet type of person when he is out of the field, but when he starts playing, you see a very different man, a determined one," Julie Jones said.

Ben Santos had the same good words for his son, Elton, who also pitched for the CNMI.

"He made us proud by bringing home the gold medal. Before he left, he told us, they will win and they did," the older Santos said.

Juan Maratita, who played at third base for the Commonwealth, said the victory in the Pacific Games made up for the twin losses he experienced for two years. Maratita was part of the CNMI Team that lost to Palau in the Micro Games last year and the Big League All-Stars who bowed to the Philippines in the finals of the 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament. The third baseman made 11 hits, just one short of the team's best hitter Juan Iguel (12).

Completing the winning CNMI roster are Eric Tenorio, Ian Rogolifoi , Keoni Lizama, Mike Iguel, Vince Cepeda, Tyrone Omar, Franco Flores, Thomas Joab, Jerome Delos Santos, Byron Kaipat, Manny Sablan, and Craig Sanchez.

PROA

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the payoff canto.

The Boy Garcia-coached Cavite, which played with only seven players, was held to three points in the first three minutes of the fourth quarter and only two field goals in the first seven minutes. Only Freddie Pelisamen and Peter Camacho scored more than three points for Cavite with the former getting most of his baskets in the closing minutes of the match when Proa had already loosen up its defense. Camacho made only one field goal and canned four free throws. Mike Umali was only the third Cavite player to score in the fourth with his split free throw and an uncontested layup in the last one minute of the game.

While Cavite struggled in the fourth, Proa was on a roll with Pete Iguel and Quincy Johnson alternately hitting long jumpers. The duo combined for 13 straight markers at one point in the fourth quarter, giving Proa its first taste of a double-digit lead, 96-85, with less than three minutes left on the clock.

Johnson also nailed successive baskets early in the fourth, making a triple and a layup to cap Proa's 9-0 run and turn a 67-68 deficit to a 76-68 advantage. Three free throws from Pelisamen off a foul from Johnson at the 3-point area broke Cavite's silence, but it was not enough to bring his team back into the game.

Pelisamen waxed hot early, tallying seven points in the first period. J.R. Montano also had seven markers, while Camacho chipped in six, as Cavite took a 26-17 lead after 10 minutes of play.

Cavite then started the second period with three straight triples, two from Dayrit and one from Pelisamen, and another 5-0 run gave Garcia's wards their biggest lead, 40-20.

Seeing his team in trouble, Iguel tried to bail out Proa, scoring 11 points in the second period and slicing the lead to 10 at the break, 54-44.

Proa continued its uphill climb in the second half and Cavite failed to answer, as it had limited manpower.

Johnson paced Proa with 30 points, while Iguel chipped in 28. Pelisamen led all scorers with his 39 markers, while Camacho finished with 22. Cavite fell to a 1-5 record with two games left and is unlikely to make it to the six-team playoffs.

Cabalen/Noni 97, Bayani/Mobil 87

In the curtain-raiser, Cabalen played steady in the second half en route to a 97-87 win over Bayani/Mobil.

Cabalen improved to a 4-1 record for third place in the team standings, while Mobil dropped its third straight game and fell to a 3-3 mark.

Wowie Abuel and Kae Bernardo teamed up in the win, firing 29 and 26 points, respectively.

The Cabalen shooting guard logged 10 of his 29 points points, giving his team a 74-67 advantage. Cabalen was behind by a deuce at the break, 48-50. Bernardo picked up where Abuel left off in the fourth, posting nine markers in the final canto.

First Game

Cabalen/Noni 97 – Abuel 29, Bernardo 26, Pagarao 13, Yabut 9, Tamayo 7, Basila 6, Demapan 4, Miranda 2.

Bayani/Mobil 87 – Estolas 27, Sharry 17, Moises 12, Lizama 10, Ruluked 8, Gapor 7, Factor 6.

Scoring by quarters: 24-20, 48-50, 74-67, 97-87

Second Game

Namfrel/Proa 106 – Johnson 30, Iguel 28, Barcinas 16, Lizama 15, Chariton 5, Mendiola 2, Valdez 2m Libuw 2, Ogumoro 2.

Cavite/Andok's 90 – Pelisamen 39, Camacho 22, Dayrit 12, Montano 7, Umali 5, Artates 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-26, 54-44, 67-68, 106-90.

TRENCH

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who triumphed in their respective bouts were Vince Masga, Walt "Silent Assault" Florencio, Frankie Ramangmao, Mark "The Dark" Nuique, and Frank Muna. Victories of Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (7-0) and Mylo "AlabaMMA" Lassiter (3-0) were earlier reported, so did "Badd" Brad Palacios' loss last weekend.

Masga looked good in his debut, tapping out Quarter Master Head Hunters' Irvin Saralu with a rear naked choke at 1:05 of the first round. Saralu came out swinging and got in some nice blows, but Masga's ground game proved to be the difference in the fight. Masga landed two double leg takedowns and took Saralu's back quickly after the second slam for the tap out.

Florencio locked in his own impressive rear naked choke on independent veteran Kev "The Rev" Esteves at 1:56 of the first round in his MMA debut. Both fighters felt each other out at first and Florencio managed a takedown, mounted Esteves, and took his back soon after for the swift victory.

Ramangmao defeated independent Leonard "JC" Cabrera, locking in a rear naked choke submission at 29 seconds into the second round of their 135-lb bout.

Nuique soundly defeated Zalaka's Franklin Agulto at 2:40 into the second round of their exhibition-boxing bout via verbal submission. Nuique danced around his opponent and even let his rival have some free shots to keep things interesting.

Muna topped Pwang's Pete Keju in their 160-lb K-1 match, as the latter could not answer the bell at the start of the second round. Keju actually looked good in Round 1, but must have been gassed after the three-minute hockey fight. Muna ate some shots early but finished strong.

Rites of Passage 11: Onra

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Frankie Ramangmao locks in a rear naked choke submission on Leonard JC Cabrera.

Guam's Kevin Miranda throws a low kick on Jordan "Jungle Boy" Ogo.

Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley throws a low kick against Guam's Kyle Pablo during their bout in the Rites of Passage 11: Onra last Friday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech Purebred's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez celebrates with his new featherweight title belt after defeating Marianas Elite's Derrick "El'Peligro" Rangamar.

Trench Tech's Mylo "AlabaMMA" Lassiter deals out some heavy ground and pound blows to a defenseless Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas.

Trench Tech's Walt "Silent Assault" Florencio locks in a rear naked choke submission on Kev "The Rev" Esteves.

Frank Muna, left, throws a vicious kick at Pete Keju.

Jacob Ilo, right, goes for a superman punch in his kickboxing bout against Guam's John Garci.

From left, master of ceremonies for Rites of Passage 11: Onra, LJ Castro, interviews lady boxers, Gianna "GiaBaby" Sarusal of Guam and Saipan's Tara "The Tarantula" Namauleg after their exhibition bout.

Guam's Mike Limiac locks in a nasty arm bar submission on Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios.

Brewers end skid, rally past Phillies, 3-2

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Late FG leads Jets to win over Cowboys

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Stosur stuns Serena in US Open

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Feeling wronged again at the U.S. Open, Serena Williams couldn't let it go.

"That's totally not cool," she shouted at the umpire. Then, a few minutes later, she told her, "You're a hater, and you're just unattractive inside."

Problem was, the real trouble for Williams was standing on the other side of the court.

Sam Stosur pushed the 13-time Grand Slam champion all over Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday and took what she wanted, along with what the umpire gave her, winning the U.S. Open in a result that was as surprising for who won as how lopsided it was.

The ninth-seeded Australian won her first Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 6-3 dismantling of No. 28 Williams, the three-time U.S. Open champion who hadn't lost a set en route to the final.

She lost two quick ones to Stosur.

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AP

Samantha Stosur of Australia poses with the championship trophy after beating Serena Williams at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Trench Tech's Vince Masga has his hand raised by referee Keith Nabors after defeating Irvin Saralu during their bout in the Rites of Passage 11: Onra last Friday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech fighters rule ROP 11

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred dominated Rites of Passage 11: Onra, as its eight fighters notched separate wins on Friday night at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Leading the list was Josh "Chaos" Duenas, who remained flawless with two wins after swiftly defeating Counter Shot's Kevin Miranda with a triangle submission just 35 seconds into the first round. Miranda was caught dead after a botched takedown attempt right out of the gate and Duenas wasted no time finishing him off.

Other Trench Tech bets

See TRENCH on **Page 26**

Proa still undefeated in UFO Bud Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Namfrel/Marianas Health Services Proa kept its perfect record in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup after surviving a scare from Cavite/Andok's, 106-90, on Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Namfrel/Proa, which now has a 5-0 record, still won by 16 points despite falling behind by as much as 20 points in the second quarter. Cavite, which hung on to a precarious one-point lead at the end of the third period, 68-67, collapsed in the fourth as it ran out of options on offense in

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Namfrel/Proa's Quincy Johnson, left, elevates for a shot against Cavite/Andok's Mike Umali during the fourth quarter of their game in the UFO Bud Cup on Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and officials of the CNMI Baseball Team pose for a group photo after arriving at the Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning.

Rogolifoi: We're the best in Pacific

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Family members and friends of the CNMI Baseball Team trooped to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning to welcome back the 2011 Pacific Games gold medalist.

The 16-man squad, manager Tony Rogolifoi, and Saipan Major League president Rose Igitol arrived on Saipan at 12:30am yesterday and were greeted with a huge cheer from their relatives and friends. Majority of the members of the CNMI Baseball Team wore their gold medals when they returned home. They won the gold medal against

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